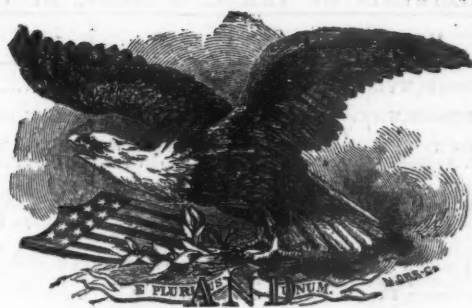


ARMY



NAVY

GAZETTE OF THE
REGULAR

JOURNAL.

AND VOLUNTEER
FORCES.

VOLUME X.—NUMBER 18.
WHOLE NUMBER 486.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1872.

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SINGLE COPIES, FIFTEEN CENTS.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION OF STEAM TO THE PROPULSION OF CARS UPON STREET RAILROADS.

THE accompanying engravings illustrate what promises to be the first practicable adaptation of steam to the uses of transit upon urban and suburban street tramways. Ever since the original introduction of common street railroads, both capital and invention have sought earnestly to find a substitute for animal traction. It would be difficult to estimate the number of essays, involving no small amount of good money and no mean degree of mechanical proficiency in this direction, of which the only memorials to-day are a legion of skeletons in the Patent Office crypts, or of bones upon the scrap-heap. The recent general disability of horses has revived the project, however, and there is now reason to believe that, profiting by the defaults of previous engineering ingenuity, an inventor, already creditably known by his works, has at last achieved the desired result.

The general appearance of the new steam car does not sensibly differ from that of the old type, nor is the invasion of the apartment by the boiler such as to lessen its passenger capacity, there being the same number of seats as in the familiar "New York" model.

The boiler is vertical, occupying the room ordinarily given to the front door. It is constructed upon the most approved theories, and of the very best material, jacketed, felted, and covered over all with the finest Russia sheet iron. Its slight interior swell is so thoroughly protected by a non-conducting partition of ash, of a finish similar to that of the general wood-work of the apartment, that in summer only the atmospheric temperature is apparent to the hand. In winter, on the contrary, the car is comfortably warmed by the use of the exhaust steam in pipes beneath the seats.

The engine is of the double cylinder type, working expansively. In its details it follows almost precisely the most approved locomotive construction, the 2 cylinders, respectively 5 and 8 inches in diameter with a 12-inch piston stroke, acting directly upon the forward axle, which is cranked. The cylinders, links, connections, etc., are disposed immediately beneath the front platform, and carefully secured by a closed apron against dust or street filth. The water tank in the car illustrated placed under the rear platform, can be located in other parts of the car if necessary.

To render steam propulsion available for use in cities, the intermittent blast from the cylinders and the smoke from the chimney must be done away with. Both of these difficulties have been overcome. The system of combustion is so thorough that its product, after the car is once in motion, is rarely perceptible even in the shape of a thin gaseous exhalation. An ingenious provision, not apparent in the engravings likewise makes the exhaust practically noiseless, so that the operation of the machin-

ery, though powerful, is much less demonstrative than the ordinary horse-car.

In addition to these smaller incidents of use in crowded thoroughfares, this invention has a peculiar faculty which makes it available for severe grades, the ascent of which has baffled all previous essays of a similar character. In the ordinary double cylinder engine the steam from the small cylinder exhausts directly into the larger one, which consequently works at a comparatively low pressure. In the present instance, the process is generally similar in running over a route having no serious gradients, the normal power (five horse) of the engine being ample for the largest load upon a level track. Whenever a severe gradient is encountered, however, by a novel arrangement, both cylinders are fed with high pressure steam, multiplying the

working energy of the engine for the time being some five or six times. In recent trials over the Bleeker street railroad, in this city, the first car constructed has, with a load of sixty passengers, found no difficulty in surmounting ascents of one foot in fourteen. Of this trial the Artisan remarks:

"The trials of this car upon the Bleeker street line fully demonstrated the capacity of the engine and boiler to carry seventy passengers up all the grades and around all the curves, both of which are more difficult than any other line in the city."

This valuable addition to transit resources is the invention of William

Baxter, an engineer of excellent previous reputation through the very large number of admirable portable engines bearing his name and manufactured by Colt's Arms Company, that are in use. The car, with engine, weighs about 8,000 lbs., an ordinary car weighing 4,500 lbs. The second car, finished last week, was at once purchased for a city railroad of Louisville, Kentucky.

The economy of operating this new propulsion is one of its marked advantages.

In trials thus far, experience gives the amount of coal (anthracite, stove size) as not exceeding 5 lbs. per mile. Thus, at the average cost of fuel on the Atlantic coast, the car can be run a hundred miles at a cost not over one dollar.

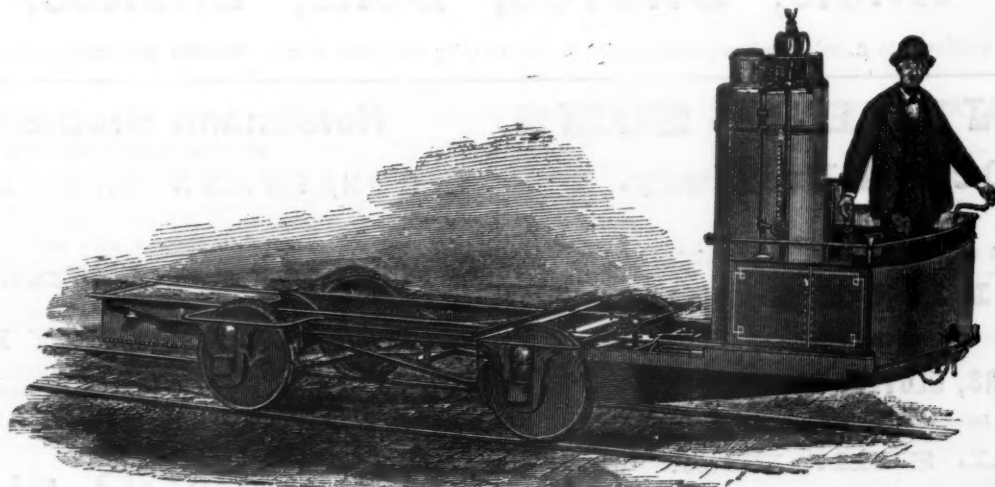
The availability of the reserve power, possessed by this modification of the common locomotive, for military uses, will doubtless suggest itself, there happening many instances in military engineering, in which this peculiar feature would certainly be of value. For the very small mining

locomotives, which are called upon—too often without success—to climb up very considerable hill-sides, and frequently to cross trestle work that a fly's weight would seem almost certain to crush, this development of extraordinary power under such favorable conditions of weight and space offers palpable advantages.

E. Remington & Sons, the celebrated manufacturers of fire-arms, sewing machines, agricultural implements, etc., have organized works upon a large scale for the production of these steam street cars, and applicants for more detailed information are referred to their establishment at Ilion, N. Y., or their salesrooms, 381 Broadway, N. Y.



ELEVATION OF REMINGTON STEAM STREET CAR.



ENGINE AND TRUCK WITHOUT BODY.

STATIONS OF THE REGIMENTS OF THE U. S. ARMY, BY COMPANIES.

(DECEMBER 9, 1872.)

Regiment.	Headquarters.	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K
1st	Willett's Pt, NYH	Willett's Pt, NYH	Willett's Pt, NYH	Willett's Pt, NYH	Willett's Pt, NYH	West Point, N Y					
21	Benicia B'cks, Cal	Fort Whipple, AT	Fort Klamath, Or.	Cp McDermitt, Nev	Camp Lowell, A	Fort Lapwai, I T	Camp Warner, Or	Camp Bidwell, Cal	Camp Harney, Or	Camp Verde, A T	Camp Halleck, Nev
22	Ft Sanders, W T	Ft Fred Steele, WT	Fort Bridger, WT	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Camp Douglas, UT	Fort Laramie, WT	Fort Ellis, M T	Fort Ellis, M T	Fort Ellis, M T	Ft Sanders, W T	Fort Laramie, WT
23	Fort McPherson, Neb	Sidney Barracks, Neb	Fort McPherson, Neb	Ft D. A. Russell, W. T.	Ft D. A. Russell, W. T.	Fort Sanders, W. T.	Fort McPherson, Neb	Ft D. A. Russell, W. T.	Ft D. A. Russell, W. T.	Fort McPherson, Neb	Fort McPherson, Neb
4th	Ft Richardson, Tex	Ft Richardson, Tex	Ft Richardson, Tex	Ft Richardson, Tex	Ft Concho, Tex	Ft Richardson, Tex	Fort Griffin, Tex.	Ft Concho, Tex	Fort Griffin, Tex.	Ft Concho, Tex	Ft Richardson, Tex
5th	Cp McDowell, AT	Cp Verde, AT	Cp McDowell, AT	Cp McDowell, AT	Cp Bowie, A. T.	Cp Date Creek, AT	Cp Crittenden, AT	Cp McDowell, AT	Cp McDowell, AT	Cp Grant, A. T.	Cp Hualpai, AT
6th	Fort Riley, Kas	Fort Riley, Kas	Fort Riley, Kas	Fort Riley, Kas	Ft Wallace, Kas	Hq's Ft Scott, Kas	Fort Hays, Kas	Ft Dodge, Kas	Fort Riley, Kas	Ft Riley, Kas	Ft Riley, Kas
7th	Louisville, Ky	Elizabethtown, Ky	Spartanburg, S C	Charlotte, N C	Opelika, Ala	Unionville, S C	Louisville, Ky	Laurensville, S C	Livingstone, Ala	Shelbyville, Ky	Yorkville, S C
8th	Fort Union, N M	Fort Bayard, N M	Fort Union, N M	Fort Union, N M	Fort Stanton, N M	Ft Wingate, N M	Ft Garland, C T	Ft Selden, N M	Ft McRae, N M	Ft Bayard, N M	Ft Wingate, N M
9th	Ft Clark, Tex	Ft Clark, Tex	Ringgold B'ks, Tex	Fort Duncan, Tex	Fort Stockton, Tex	Ft Clark, Tex	Ft McKavett, Tex	Ft Clark, Tex	Ft Clark, Tex	Fort Davis, Tex	Ft Clark, Tex
10th	Fort Gibson, I T	Fort Sill, I T	Fort Gibson, I T	Camp Supply, I T	Camp Supply, I T	Fort Sill, I T	Fort Sill, I T	Fort Sill, I T	Fort Gibson, I T	Fort Sill, I T	Fort Sill, I T
11th	Charleston, S C	Ft Barrancas, Fla	Ft Polaski, Ga	Fort Polaski, Ga	Savannah, Ga	Key West, Fla	Ft Barrancas, Fla	Ft Monroe, Va	Charleston, S C	Key West, Fla	Charleston, S C
12th	Ft McHenry, Md	Ft McHenry, Md	Fort Foote, Md	Ft McHenry, Md	Raleigh, N C	Fort Macon, N C	Ft McHenry, Md	Raleigh, N C	Ft McHenry, Md	Raleigh, N C	Ft Monroe, Va
13th	Ft Hamilton, NYH	Fort Monroe, Va	Ft Niagara, NY	Ft Hamilton, NYH	Madison B'ks, NYH	Ft Hamilton, NYH	Ft Hamilton, NYH	Ft Hamilton, NYH	David's Isl, N Y H	Ft Hamilton, NYH	Ft Wadsworth, NYH
14th	Presidio, Cal	Presidio, Cal	Presidio, Cal	Sitka, Alaska	Aleutian Isl, Cal	Alcatraz Isl, Cal	Alcatraz Isl, Cal	Alcatraz Isl, Cal	Ft Cape Disappointment, W. T.	Fort Trumbull, Conn	Presidio, Cal
15th	Fort Adams, R I	Fort Adams, R I	Fort Adams, R I	Ft Monroe, Va	Ft Warren, Mass	Ft Independence, Mass	Fort Adams, R I	Plattsburg B'cks, N Y	Fort Trumbull, Conn	Fort Trumbull, Conn	Ft Sullivan, Mass
16th	Ft Wayne, Mich	Fort Brady, Mich	Madison B'ks, NYH	Ft Porter, N Y	Ft Wayne, Mich	Ft Wayne, Mich	Ft Porter, N Y	Ft Porter, N Y	Ft Gratiot, Mich	Ft Wayne, Mich	Ft Porter, N Y
17th	Mobile, Ala	Atlanta, Ga	Atlanta, Ga	Huntsville, Ala.	Spartanburg, S C	St Augustine, Fla	Mobile, Ala	St Augustine, Fla	St Augustine, Fla	Chattanooga, Tenn	Mobile, Ala
18th	Fort Hays, Kas	Camp Dodge, Kas.	Camp Supply, I T	Hays, Kas	Camp Supply, I T	Fort Lyon, C T	Fort Lyon, C T	Fort Lyon, C T	Fort Wallace, Kas	Camp Supply, I T	Fort Lyon, C T
19th	Frankfort, Ky	Lexington, Ky	Crab Orchard, Ky	Lebanon, Ky	Frankfort, Ky	Mt Sterling, Ky	Elizabethtown, Ky	Paducah, Ky	Louisville, Ky	Lebanon, Ky	Frankfort, Ky
20th	Ft Leavenworth, Kas	Ft Leavenworth, Kas	South Eastern Kas	Fort Dodge, Kas	Ft Larned, Kas	Ft Larned, Kas	Ft Larned, Kas	Ft Leavenworth, Kas	Ft Leavenworth, Kas	Ft Leavenworth, Kas	Ft Leavenworth, Kas
21st	Fort Buford, D. T.	Fort Buford, D. T.	Ft Ab. Lincoln, DT	Ft Ab. Lincoln, DT	Fort Buford, D. T.	Fort Buford, D. T.	Fort Buford, D. T.	Fort Buford, D. T.	Ft Stevenson, D. T.	Fort Buford, D. T.	Ft Stevenson, D. T.
22d	Fort Shaw, M T	Fort Shaw, M T	Fort Bentou, M T	Fort Shaw, M T	Fort Shaw, M T	Fort Shaw, M T	Fort Shaw, M T	Fort Shaw, M T	Fort Shaw, M T	Fort Shaw, M T	Fort Shaw, M T
23d	Ft D. A. Russell, WT	Ft D. A. Russell, WT	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb
24th	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb	Omaha B'ks, Neb
25th	Ft McKavett, Tex	Ft McKavett, Tex	Ft McKavett, Tex	San Antonio, Tex	San Antonio, Tex	San Antonio, Tex	San Antonio, Tex	San Antonio, Tex	San Antonio, Tex	San Antonio, Tex	San Antonio, Tex
26th	Fort Griffin, Tex	Fort Griffin, Tex	Fort Griffin, Tex	Fort Griffin, Tex	Fort Griffin, Tex	Fort Griffin, Tex	Fort Griffin, Tex	Fort Griffin, Tex	Fort Griffin, Tex	Fort Griffin, Tex	Fort Griffin, Tex
27th	Angel Island, Cal	Camp Wright, Cal	Camp Independence, Cal	Fort Hall, I T	Camp Yuma, Cal	Camp Yuma, Cal	Camp Yuma, Cal	Camp Yuma, Cal	Camp Yuma, Cal	Camp Yuma, Cal	Camp Yuma, Cal
28th	Ft Fred Steele, WT	Camp Brown, WT	Ft Fred Steele, WT	Camp Douglas, UT	Camp Douglas, UT	Camp Douglas, UT	Camp Douglas, UT	Camp Douglas, UT	Camp Douglas, UT	Camp Douglas, UT	Camp Douglas, UT
29th	Ft Laramie, W T	Ft Laramie, W T	Ft Laramie, W T	Ft Laramie, W T	Ft Laramie, W T	Ft Laramie, W T	Ft Laramie, W T	Ft Laramie, W T	Ft Laramie, W T	Ft Laramie, W T	Ft Laramie, W T
30th	Santa Fe, N M	Ft Wingate, N M	Ft Stanton, N M	Ft Stanton, N M	Ft Stanton, N M	Ft Stanton, N M	Ft Stanton, N M	Ft Stanton, N M	Ft Stanton, N M	Ft Stanton, N M	Ft Stanton, N M
31st	Nashville, Tenn	Louisville, Ky	Jackson, Miss	Aberdeen, Miss	Humboldt Tenn	Louisville, Ky	Nashville, Tenn	Nashville, Tenn	Jackson, Miss	Jackson, Miss	Jackson, Miss
32d	Fort Rice, D T	Ft Rice, D T.	Ft Rice, D T.	Ft Rice, D T	Cp Hancock, D T	Ft Rice, D T	Ft Rice, D T	Ft Rice, D T	Ft Rice, D T	Ft Rice, D T	Ft Rice, D T
33d	Columbia, S C	Atlanta, Ga	Columbia, S C	Yorkville, S C	Columbia, S C	Atlanta, Ga	Columbia, S C	Columbia, S C	Columbia, S C	Columbia, S C	Columbia, S C
34th	Baton Rouge, La	Baton Rouge, La	Baton Rouge, La	Jackson B'cks, La	Jackson B'cks, La	Baton Rouge, La	Baton Rouge, La	Baton Rouge, La	Baton Rouge, La	Baton Rouge, La	Baton Rouge, La
35th	Ft Snelling, Minn	Ft Seward, D T	Ft Seward, D T	Ft Snelling, Minn	Fort Wadsworth, D T	Fort Totten, D T	Fort Wadsworth, D T	Fort Wadsworth, D T	Fort Totten, D T	Fort Totten, D T	Fort Totten, D T
36th	Ft Vancouver, WT	Cp Harney, Or.	Ft Vancouver, WT	Ft Vancouver, WT	Camp Warner, Or	Fort Colville, WT	Ft Klamath, Or	Fort Lapwai, I T	San Juan I'd, WT	Ft Vancouver, WT	Ft Boise, I T
37th	Fort Sully, D T	Fort Sully, D T	Ft Randall, D T	Lo's Brule Agency, D T	Ft. Randall, D. T.	Fort Sully, D T	Fort Sully, D T	Fort Randall, D	Ft Randall, D T	Fort Sully, D T	Ft Randall, D T
38th	Fort Whipple, AT	Camp Verde, A T	Cp Date Creek, AT	Cp McDowell, AT	Camp Lowell, AT	Camp Lowell, AT	Cp Bowie, A. T.	Cp Hualpai, A T	Camp Grant, A T	Camp Apache, AT	Ft Whipple, AT
39th	Fort Brown, Tex	Ringgold B'ks, Tex	Ringgold B'ks, Tex	Fort Brown, Texas	Ft McIntosh, Tex	Fort Brown, Tex	Fort Brown, Tex	Fort Brown, Tex	Fort Brown, Texas	Fort Brown, Texas	Fort Brown, Texas
40th	Fort Davis, Tex	San Antonio, Tex	Fort Quitman, Tex	Fort Gibson, I T	Ft Davis, Tex	Fort Davis, Tex	Fort Stockton, Tex	Fort Davis, Tex	Fort Bliss, Tex	Fort Gibson, I T	Fort Stockton, Tex

First Cavalry—Companies L and M, Camp Apache, A. T. Second Cavalry—Company L, Fort Ellis, M. T.; Company M, Omaha, Neb. Third Cavalry—Co. L, Ft. D. A. Russell, W. T.; Co. M, Fort McPherson, Neb. Fourth Cavalry—Company L, Fort Richardson, Tex; Company M, Fort Brown, Texas. Fifth Cavalry—Companies L and M, Camp Grant, A. T. Sixth Cavalry—Company L, Fort Riley, Kas; Company M, Fort Lyon, C. T. Seventh Cavalry—Company L, Yorkville, S. C.; Company M, Unionville, S. C. Eighth Cavalry—Company L, Fort Union, N. M.; Company M, Fort Union, N. M. Ninth Cavalry—Company L, Ft. McIntosh, Tex; Company M, Fort McKavett, Tex. Tenth Cavalry—Companies L and M, Fort Sill, I. T.

First Artillery—Company L, Fort Barrancas, Fla; Company M, Fort Jefferson, Florida. Second Artillery—Company L, Fort Macon, Va; Company M, Fort Johnston, Va. Third Artillery—Company L, Fort Wood, NYH; Company M, David's Island, N. Y. H. company to go to Fort Wadsworth, N. Y. H. Fourth Artillery—Company L, Sitka, Alaska; Company M, Regimental Hdqrs. Fifth Artillery—Company L, Fort Adams, R. I.; Company M, Fort Preble, Me.

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ESTABLISHED 1833.

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UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENTS OF THE NEW REGULATION

N. B.—Directions given for measuring on application.

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THE ARMY.

W. T. SHERMAN, General of the Army of the United States.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

W. W. Belknap, Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 7, 1872.

General Orders No. 105.

By direction of the President, the headquarters Military Division of the Atlantic is transferred from Philadelphia to New York city.

By command of General Sherman:
E. D. TOWNSEND, Adjutant-General.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE.

Brigadier-General E. D. Townsend, Adjutant-General.

ABSTRACT OF SPECIAL ORDERS

Issued from the Adjutant-General's Office for the week ending December 9, 1872.

Tuesday, December 3.

The following-named superintendents of National Cemeteries (recently appointed), will proceed to and assume charge of the National Cemeteries to which they are hereby assigned respectively: Superintendent John Flynn, National Cemetery at Little Rock, Arkansas; Superintendent William L. Smith, National Cemetery at San Antonio, Texas. The Quartermaster's Department will furnish the necessary transportation.

Paragraph 2, Special Orders No. 294, November 18, 1872, from this office, directing the stoppage of \$79.70 from the pay of Second Lieutenant John H. Gifford, Second Artillery, is suspended for six months.

The superintendent General Recruiting Service will cause to be prepared and forwarded under proper charge from Fort Columbus, New York Harbor, twenty-five recruits, including a bugler and baker, to Fort McHenry, Maryland, where they will be reported upon arrival to the commanding officer of that post for assignment to Light Battery A, Second Artillery. These recruits will be selected from men willing to serve with a mounted battery.

Wednesday, December 4.

Captain J. C. Bates, Twentieth Infantry, having rendered satisfactory explanations to this office for the non-rendition of his recruiting accounts for September, 1866, the stoppage against his pay directed by paragraph 6, Special Orders No. 601, December 4, 1866, from this office will be removed.

Discharged.—Private Almanzer C. Pollard, General Service U. S. Army.

Bugler Thomas Horan, Company B, First Cavalry, (now Fourth Cavalry), who deserted February 11, 1863; enlisted in Battery C, Fourth Artillery, June 3, 1867; discharged therefrom June 3, 1870, by expiration of term of service, and surrendered himself to the commanding officer Fort Niagara, New York, August 1, 1872, while serving at that post in Battery L, First Artillery (with which command he is now supposed to be in confinement awaiting trial), is hereby restored to duty without trial, and transferred to the last named battery to serve out the term for which he enlisted in that command.

Leave of absence for four months is granted Assistant Surgeon Joseph K. Corson.

Under Paragraph 1, General Orders No. 79, August 8, 1872, from this office, the following-named officers will hold themselves in readiness, at their respective stations, to make payment to claimants at points near those stations, under special instructions to be communicated by the Adjutant-General of the Army: First Lieutenant J. H. Counselman, First Artillery, Charleston, S. C.; First Lieutenant J. W. Dillenback, First Artillery Savannah, Georgia; First Lieutenant W. S. Starring, Second Artillery, Fort Johnston, North Carolina; Second Lieutenant Henry A. Reed, Second Artillery, Fort Macon, North Carolina; First Lieutenant James Curry, Fifth Artillery, Fort Monroe, Virginia.

The resignation of Captain Edward C. Boynton, Third Artillery, has been accepted by the President to take effect December 1, 1872.

Thursday, December 5.

Captain R. B. Marcy, inspector-general, will proceed to inspect certain unserviceable quartermaster's property on hand at the Surgeon-General's office, No. 511, Tenth street, northwest, and for which Assistant Surgeon J. J. Woodward is responsible.

The telegraphic order of the 4th instant, from this office, directing Colonel L. C. Easton, assistant quartermaster-general, to report in person on the morning of the 5th instant at the Department of Justice in this city to conclude his testimony in cases before the Court of Claims, is hereby confirmed. When his presence is no longer necessary, Colonel Easton will return to his station.

Captain S. M. Whitale, Sixth Cavalry, recruiting officer, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, will proceed to Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, and inspect the clothing, camp, and garrison equipage and quartermaster's stores at that post. On completion of this duty Captain Whitale will return to his proper station and render his report, together with the necessary inventories and in-

spection reports and recommendations for the disposition of any of the property found to be unserviceable, to this office.

Captain E. V. Sumner, First Cavalry, recruiting officer, New York city, is appointed to act as inspector on certain unserviceable clothing, camp and garrison equipage and commissary property on hand at the cavalry recruiting rendezvous New York city, and for which First Lieutenant J. H. Mahnken, Eighth Cavalry, is responsible.

Leave of absence for thirty days is granted Major Guido N. Lieber, judge-advocate.

Upon the receipt of this order, Hospital Steward Thomas G. Underwood (recently appointed from private, Company B, Second Cavalry), will proceed to headquarters Department of Texas and report in person to the commanding general of that department for assignment to duty.

Friday, December 6.

The disbursing office at Natchez, Mississippi, established by War Department General Orders No. 79, August 8, 1872, is hereby transferred to New Orleans, Louisiana, under special instructions to be communicated by the Adjutant-General of the Army.

Discharged.—Private William W. Wheeler, General Service U. S. Army.

On the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers, the following changes in the stations and duties of engineer officers are hereby made: Colonel J. H. Simpson will transfer his present duties and works, temporarily, to Captain A. N. Damrell, and will then proceed to St. Louis, Missouri, and relieve Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. Reynolds of the works and duties in his charge; Lieutenant-Colonel Reynolds, upon being thus relieved by Colonel Simpson, will proceed to Mobile, Alabama, and relieve Captain Damrell of the works and duties turned over to him by Colonel Simpson.

Saturday, December 7.

Discharged.—Private Andrew Zink, Company L, First Cavalry; Recruit Gilbert E. Baldwin, General Service U. S. Army; Private Edward Corcoran, Company K, Sixth Cavalry.

Paragraph 2 Special Orders No. 289, of November 14, 1872, from this office directing that Private Maurice O'Hern, Company E, Thirteenth Infantry, be discharged the Service of the United States, is hereby revoked.

Discharged.—Private Homer A. Johnson, General Service U. S. Army; Private Arthur J. Byrns, Company D, Seventh Infantry; Sergeant Alfred Brimer, General Service U. S. Army.

On the recommendation of the Judge-Advocate-General, Major Guido N. Lieber, judge-advocate, is relieved from the operation of Special Orders No. 235, October 3, 1872, from this office and upon expiration of his present leave of absence, will report in person to the commanding general Military Division of the South for duty at division headquarters.

Captain C. D. Emory, Ninth Infantry, will report in person to the commanding general Department of Texas for duty as acting judge-advocate of that department.

On the recommendation of the Surgeon-General Assistant Surgeon C. E. Munn will report in person to the commanding general Department of the East for assignment to duty.

The leave of absence on surgeon's certificate of disability granted Colonel W. B. Hazen, Sixth Infantry, in Special Orders No. 203, October 16, 1872, from headquarters Department of Dakota, is extended five months on surgeon's certificate of disability.

[There were no Special Orders issued from the Adjutant-General's Office on Monday the 9th instant.]

COMMISSARY DEPARTMENT.

Brigadier-General A. B. Eaton, Commissary-General.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSARY-GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE.

OFFICE OF COMMISSARY-GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE, WASHINGTON CITY, Oct. 5, 1872.

Hon. William W. Belknap, Secretary of War.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the Subsistence Department of the Army for the fiscal year terminating June 30, 1872:

No changes of special importance or magnitude have taken place in the mode of subsisting the Army during the past year, the sources and methods of supply having, since the war, been gradually brought into close conformity with the customary usages governing in commercial transactions. A responsible officer is placed at the headquarters of each of the three military divisions and eleven military departments into which the whole territory of the United States is divided, who, under the General Regulations of the Army, the instructions of this office, and the orders of the commanding generals of such divisions and departments, is charged with supplying the troops of their respective commands.

There being three vacancies in the Subsistence Department, the number of its officers is now twenty-six. Of these, one colonel and two lieutenant-colonels, assistant commissaries-general, are stationed at the headquarters of the Divisions of the Atlantic, the Pacific, and the Missouri. Ten commissaries, of the rank of major and captain, are stationed at the headquarters of the Military Departments of the East, the Lakes, Dakota, the Platte, the Missouri, Texas, California, the Columbia, the South, and the Gulf. Most of these officers, besides performing the duties of chief commissary of their several headquarters, usually also perform purchasing and depot duties. Of the remaining officers of the Department—thirteen—four are on duty in the Subsistence

Bureau, eight are stationed at important points of purchase or at depots, as Washington, Baltimore, Saint Louis, Chicago, Sioux City, Pueblo, Santa Fe, and Cheyenne, one being on leave. An officer of cavalry is temporarily performing the duty of chief commissary at the headquarters of Arizona.

A terrible conflagration having laid in ashes a large part of the city of Chicago, the Subsistence Department was, under the telegraphic instructions of the Secretary of War to Lieutenant-General P. H. Sheridan, United States Army, dated October 9, 1871, called upon to furnish and distribute food to the sufferers by that calamity. Accordingly, supplies were hurried forward from Saint Louis and Cincinnati, but the magnificent contributions by the people for their suffering fellow-citizens soon poured into Chicago from all quarters so freely that the sum of \$5,705.83 only was expended for this purpose by the Subsistence Department. The supplies sent to Chicago were, however, most opportunely there, to meet a call from the Governor of Wisconsin for the sufferers by the forest-fires which swept over portions of that State. For this purpose, Lieutenant-General Sheridan, under the authority of the Secretary of War, of November 15, 1871, caused food valued at \$30,836.11 to be issued to the governor, "on condition that the State of Wisconsin will account for the stores at their value if required to do so hereafter."

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1872, there were reported to this office 198 advertisements inviting proposals for furnishing supplies, 336 contracts for fresh beef, 75 contracts for complete rations, 159 contracts for miscellaneous articles, and 370 contracts consisting of written proposals and acceptances. In order promptly to meet the requirements of the troops, it is occasionally necessary to make purchases in the open market. When this is done the purchasing officers take the customary means for obtaining their supplies at the lowest market rates for kind and quality of articles purchased. The average price paid for fresh beef, under contracts made during the year, was seventeen cents and fourteen hundredths per ration, being a decrease of two cents and forty-two hundredths from the average for the previous year.

As required by law (section 6, act of March 3, 1865), the Subsistence Department has furnished tobacco for sale to enlisted men of the Army at cost price. From the returns received at this office, and transmitted to the Paymaster-General, it appears that during the year the sales of tobacco to troops amounted to \$157,113.24, making an average of \$13,092.72 per month, and indicating that fully two-thirds of the enlisted men availed themselves of the means the Government thus affords them of obtaining this article. As the Government is repaid by the soldier for the tobacco supplied him, it is deemed right to meet his demands by furnishing him with the best article of plug tobacco offered in response to advertisements for proposals.

The Freedmen's Hospital at Washington, D. C., has during the year been furnished, on requisitions of the Commissioner of Refugees, Freedmen, etc., with subsistence stores valued at \$31,630.36. Of this amount the sum of \$10,303.49 has been repaid, leaving a balance of \$21,326.87 due the Subsistence Department.

Under the provisions of section 16 of the act of June 30, 1834, and paragraph 1,202 Revised Regulations for the Army, 1863, subsistence supplies valued at \$89,048.12 have, in the discretion of commanding officers, been issued to Indians of the various tribes visiting the military posts on the frontier, or in their respective nations, no part of which amount is returned to the appropriation for the subsistence of the Army.

Issues of subsistence stores to Indians have also been made under proper instructions and to meet special emergencies, as follows:

In Arizona, valued at.....	\$31,787 29
At Camp McDermitt, Nevada, valued at.....	3,358 71
At Camp Harney, Oregon, valued at.....	3,037 47
At Grand River Agency, Dakota Territory, valued at.....	2,492 10
At Fort Yuma, California, valued at.....	659 04
At Big Springs, Nebraska, valued at.....	831 58
At Sidney Barracks, Nebraska, valued at.....	1,119 68
At Forts Fetterman and Laramie, Wyoming Territory, valued at.....	9,862 13

108,137 99

Of which the following sums have been repaid by the Indian Department:

For Forts Laramie and Fetterman, Wyoming Territory.....	\$9,862 13
For Sidney Barracks, Nebraska.....	1,119 68

10,981 80

Leaving for future settlement \$93,018.31.

During the fiscal year there were received from 513 different officers of the Army, who have been on duty in the Subsistence Department, and who were responsible for subsistence funds or supplies, the following monthly and quarterly papers, each with its appropriate vouchers:

Returns of provisions.....	2,990
Returns of commissary property.....	1,107
Accounts current.....	3,109

Making a total of..... 7,206

Of which—

Returns of provisions.....	2,747
Returns of commissary property.....	1,050
Accounts current.....	2,790

Making a total of..... 6,587

Have been examined and forwarded to the Third Auditor of the Treasury for final settlement, leaving in this office, for examination or awaiting correction, 619 accounts and returns. These accounts and returns indicate considerable improvement in promptness of rendition and general accuracy upon those of the previous year.

Under the act of June 23, 1870, authorizing the proper accounting officers of the Treasury, in the settlement of certain accounts of disbursing officers of the Army and Navy, to allow such credits for overpayments, and for losses of funds, vouchers, or property, as they may deem just and reasonable, when recommended under authority of the Secretaries of War and Navy by the head of the Military and Naval Bureaus, to which such accounts respectively pertain, credits have during the past fiscal year been recommended in the cases of 370 officers, involving the sum of \$109,320.79. Since the passage of the act credits have been recommended in the cases of 410 officers, involving \$127,452.09.

Up to the 30th day of September last 5,877 claims, amounting to \$3,200,677.37, had been submitted for examination under the third section of the act of July 4, 1864, for subsistence taken or furnished during the war for Army use in States not in rebellion. One hundred and five of these, accompanied by regular vouchers given by the officers when purchasing the stores, have been recommended for payment, in the aggregate sum of \$9,132.75, by the Third Auditor of the Treasury, as purchases under contract; 1,361 others (aggregating \$411,440.73) have been recommended to him for settlement under the act, in the aggregate amount of \$295,554.43, and 4,400, amounting to \$2,664,939.70, have been examined and disallowed. The act under which these claims are presented has now been in force upwards of eight years, and it is believed the great mass, if not all, of the well-founded claims that come within the terms of the third section have been filed. And it is apparent, without argument, that the task, originally very difficult, of investigating and deciding these cases with equity and justice, becomes daily more so from the passing away by deaths and removals, and from the imperfect memories after the lapse of so long a period, of so many officers and others alleged to have taken or received the stores, or to have knowledge of them in cases still being presented or called up for a re-examination, while these very difficulties but add security, if not increased facilities, to the prosecution of fraudulent claims. The expediency is therefore suggested of recommending to Congress to set a future but not distant day as a limit after which claims shall not be presented to or received at this office under this act, and another day, not later than twelve months thereafter, for the termination of all action by this office on claims under this law. The number of certificates received and paid up to the 30th of September, 1872, is 6,525, amounting to \$287,318, for commutation of rations to Union soldiers, prisoners of war, and their heirs, under the joint resolution of July 25, 1866, and section 3 of the act of March 2, 1867.

The necessities of the service at every military post have always required the services of at least one man to assist the commissary in his duties. Now that the Subsistence Department is required by law (section 25, act of July 28, 1866) to keep on hand and sell to officers and enlisted men of the Army certain goods formerly supplied by sutlers, the quantity and variety of stores for which the commissary is responsible is greatly increased, as is also the labor connected with receiving, storing, overhauling, invoicing, issuing, selling, and accounting for them. The commissary, as a necessary consequence, now needs more than ever a reliable, intelligent, expert man to assist him. Under existing laws and regulations there are but two means of obtaining such assistance: 1st, by hiring civilians; 2d, by details from the enlisted men of the Army. The first, besides other objections, is the most expensive—so costly, in fact, as to preclude its use except in rare and exceptional cases. The second, which, from necessity, is that resorted to in nearly all cases, is objectionable, from the fact that the commissary is rarely able by it to obtain reliable men having the proper requirements, and also from the fact that such details are from their nature but temporary and frequently changed, thus affording the commissary, as a rule, only inferior, unreliable, and unskilled assistance. It is scarcely just to the young subaltern officers of the Army, most of whom before being assigned to duty in the Subsistence Department, have had little or no experience in the purchase, preservation, handling, issuing, or selling of subsistence stores, and who become and are held officially and pecuniarily responsible to the Government for all such stores as are placed in their charge, to hold them to a rigid pecuniary accountability at the Treasury without providing them with at least one reliable assistant. For the want of such reliable assistants there are frequent losses of stores. Such losses, until they can be proved to have taken place without prejudice to the officers nominally responsible, stand charged to them. In the interest of the Treasury, and in that of the junior officers of the Army and of the soldiers, some means should be provided for giving to each of those officers who are by the necessities of the service forced to become responsible for subsistence supplies at least one reliable assistant—for the Treasury to save money; for the young officer, to enable him to perform his duties more satisfactorily and with less pecuniary loss to himself; for the soldier, that the food placed at his post may be more surely preserved and reach him in a good wholesome condition. The want of such an assistant to each post commissary is the greatest evil with which the department has now to contend in its important ministrations. To remedy it, I recommend that Congress may be asked to authorize the Secretary of War to select from the non-commissioned officers of the Army who shall have faithfully served therein at least five years, three years of which in the grade of non-commissioned officer, as many persons, to be by him appointed commissary-sergeants, as the service may require, not to exceed one for each military post or place of deposit of commissary stores, whose duty it shall be, under the orders of the proper officer of the Subsistence Department,

to assist in receiving, preserving, issuing, selling, and duly accounting for, under such regulations as shall be prescribed, all stores pertaining to the Subsistence Department that may be placed under their charge, and who shall receive for their services the pay and allowances of ordnance-sergeants. This would make a small addition to the enlisted force of the Army, but I have no hesitation in expressing the opinion that as a result it would lessen the total expenses of the Government for its support, as by the constant care and skill of well-selected commissary-sergeants the large quantities of stores now lost for want of such care and skill would be saved for issue.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

A. B. EATON, Commissary-Gen. of Subsistence.

PAY DEPARTMENT.

Colonel Benjamin Alvord, Paymaster-General.

THE annual report of the Paymaster-General, dated October 10, 1872, shows that the receipts and disbursements for the year have been: Balance on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year, (July 1, 1871), \$2,084,884.49; received during the fiscal year from the Treasury, \$13,392,343.00; received from other sources, \$59,092.11: total \$16,136,319.60. Disbursed to the Army, including the military academy, \$11,764,124.36; disbursed to volunteers and for bounties, \$962,391.29; total disbursements, \$12,726,515.65. Refunded to Treasury, \$675,929.90; balance in hands of paymasters to be accounted for in next report, \$2,733,874.05; total \$16,136,319.60.

The reconstruction fund is as follows: Balance in hands of paymaster, June 30, 1871, \$723.52; received from sundry sources, \$2,417.87; total \$3,141.39. Refunded to Treasury, \$3,141.39; total \$3,141.39.

The most notable events, so far as the Pay Department is concerned, of the last twelve months are, the passage by Congress of the act of May 15, 1872, "to establish the pay of the enlisted men of the Army," and of the act "to establish a system of deposits, etc."

By the failure of Congress to continue the acts passed during the war increasing the pay of the enlisted men, it had fallen back from sixteen to thirteen dollars per month for the privates. This reduction occurred simultaneously with the abolishing of the deposit system, and the paying back of the deposits by the 30th of June, 1871, and the repayment of clothing money saved, the combined effect of all being to increase desertions, to dishearten the recruiting service, and depress the enlisted men. But the recent legislation has corrected all these things, and must materially encourage and improve the condition of the rank and file of the army. The pay bill carries the system of retained pay to those of all ranks, heretofore confined to the privates. It is deemed important that the non-commissioned officer should also be compelled to save a portion of his pay and not look, when discharged, with envy upon the private, who had been forced to be more provident. There is every stimulus given for re-enlistment, and the re-enlisted soldier is encouraged by being assured at once of the highest rate of pay. He not only receives the additional pay given by the act of August 4, 1854, but is placed (if he has ever at any time re-enlisted under that act) upon the maximum rate provided by the act of May 15, 1872.

The recent act provides (like the old system) that the deposit shall not be repaid until the discharge of the soldier, and it adds the important provision, "that for any sums of not less than fifty dollars so deposited for the period of six months or longer, the soldier, on his final discharge, shall be paid interest, at the rate of four per cent. per annum."

In time of peace nine-tenths of the army are stationed remote from savings banks, and all access to the usual modes of investment. In time of war, the soldier has most trouble to take care of his money, and the government is most in want of it. The deposit system fully carried out during the late war, would have put millions into the public chest at a point of time when the government was most straitened to raise the adequate resources. And no one can doubt the effect of such a system in raising the spirits, stimulating the ambition, and elevating the tone of the enlisted men. If the captains of companies will encourage and persuade their men to make deposits, they will find that it will diminish the number of desertions and render "Pay day," and the sequel of it, a quiet, orderly event in a garrison, a result which would be a source of great satisfaction to the Pay Department of the Army.

The Paymaster-General invites attention to the importance of Congress repealing the interdiction upon promotions and appointments in the Pay Department. Promotion is the life-blood of an army; and this Department is already so reduced, that if any exigency or additional vacancies shall occur it will be difficult to carry on its business. Two officers being retired during the last year, and two not being reported for duty, the number in certain regions on the frontier, as also in the East, has been diminished. Sickness or temporary disability is likely to occur, especially when the tours of duty performed are so severe. Therefore a few more Paymasters are needed for the absolute wants of the service, without any reference to the propriety of enabling the War Department to give occasional respite and relief to those who are discharging such arduous duties. The vacancies existing (according to organization established by the act of July 28, 1866), are one Deputy Paymaster-General and ten paymasters. He recommends that the number of paymasters be established by law at fifty-two instead of sixty as provided by that act. If one paymaster is promoted to Deputy Paymaster-General there would in that case remain three vacancies at the foot of the list to be filled, or eight less than by the present organization.

The act of June 4, 1872, authorized the President to appoint a Paymaster-General to fill the existing vacancy, with the rank, etc., of colonel. The act of July 28, 1866, established the rank of Paymaster-General as

Brigadier-General; and when the next vacancy occurs it will be filled with that grade, unless the last named act is changed. The act of June 4 simply permitted the vacancy then existing to be filled. General Alvord submits that the grade should remain that of a Brigadier-General. During the war he had charge of more than five hundred paymasters, there being a permanent provision for the expansion of the Pay Department in time of war. Now two colonels of older date are commanded by myself. This awkward position of affairs would recur in every Staff Department if such a policy should be carried out, of reducing the rank of chiefs of staff whenever a vacancy shall occur. The deliberate action of Congress in 1866, after careful consideration of the wants of the Army, led to a gradation of rank in each staff corps, which, he submits should not be changed.

As certain schemes for radical changes of organization in the staff have been suggested during the last year, it is proper to call attention to the fact that similar experiments of consolidation have been tried during the last three years in the English service, but are regarded as an utter failure. Witness the proceedings at the meeting of the United Service Institution of England, held on the 5th of February, 1872, when E. B. De Fonblanque, deputy controller (retired), set forth in graphic terms the incongruous elements and inefficient workings of the "Control Department," as the new system is called. As he had been one of the original advocates of the same, his testimony is the more significant. His criticisms are fully confirmed by papers in Colburn's Naval and Military Journal for November, 1871, and March, 1872, the first describing the "disasters" which had already attended the experiment; the latter speaking of the "Collapse of Control."

At this time, more than at any other, it is natural that we should be led to a close scrutiny of the condition of like branches in foreign armies. Members of the "Control" Department were given no military rank, and forcible arguments are advanced by them in favor of such a step, which would increase their prestige when in contact with other branches of the service. This is mentioned as but one example how far advanced we are in our organizations, in which the assimilated rank of the staff involves no collision with the line of the Army, but imparts force and efficiency in the discharge of their duties. Officers of that army, of great intelligence, express unqualified admiration of the successful working, on so large a field, of our various staff and supply departments during the late war.

As to the economy of administration he hopes it will not be considered out of place to recur to the debate in the House of Representatives in April last, between the leading advocates on opposing sides in the question of Civil Service reform. Each quoted the statistics of the Pay Department. The one said: "Here is already in existence a system in which, during the late war, the whole expense of administration (including defalcations) was but three-fourths of one per cent. of the total amount disbursed, and in which the defalcations (even if that of Major Hodge is included), were not one-tenth of one per cent. of the same total." The other debater said, "This is true, but it is owing to its being real Civil Service reform, viz: an organization independent of politics." He adds that the result was due (as contrasted with the experience of the war of 1812), to high rank and pay under a separate organization being given to the officers of the Pay Department, thus giving every stimulus to good conduct to those who are appointed. Thus it is respectfully submitted that Congress should not rashly tamper, as some have proposed, with said system, but leave undisturbed an organization of fifty years' growth which, during that period, has brought honor upon the public service both in time of war and in time of peace.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS.

Brigadier-General A. A. Humphreys, U. S. A., Chief of Engineers.

The following memorandum of orders, circulars, and instructions relating to the Corps of Engineers, issued or received during the months of October and November 1872, is in addition to those already published:

Captain Lee—Granted extension of fourteen days to leave of absence for seven days, granted by his commanding officer. S. O. No. 124, H. Q. C. of E., October 12.

Board of Engineers, Pacific coast—To examine and report on plan, drawings, etc., of proposed bridge across the Willamette river at Portland, Oregon. Letter, Chief of Engineers, October 12.

Major Robert—To be associated with Board of Engineers, Pacific coast, in the consideration of the subject of bridge across the Willamette river, Oregon. Letter, Chief of Engineers, October 12.

Captain Damrell—Relieved from temporary duty under command of Major Abbot, to report to Colonel J. H. Simpson, New York city. S. O. No. 126, par. 2, H. Q. C. of E., Oct. 17.

Colonel Simpson—To return to his station at Mobile, Ala. Letter, Chief of Engineers, Oct. 17.

Captain Damrell—To return to his station at Mobile, Ala. Letter, Chief of Engineers, Oct. 17.

First Lieutenant Mahan—Confirming order of Major Merrill, directing him to take temporary station at Pittsburg, Pa. S. O. No. 128, par. 5, H. Q. C. of E., Oct. 21.

Lieutenant-Colonel Z. B. Tower, Lieutenant-Colonel H. B. Wright, Lieutenant-Colonel J. G. Foster, Major Q. A. Gillmore, Major W. P. Craighill—Board of Engineers, on Cape Fear river, N. C., constituted by S. O. No. 162, headquarters C. of E., Dec. 13, 1871, to reassemble at New York city, Nov. 13, 1872. S. O. No. 132, par. 1, H. Q. C. of E., Oct. 31.

Colonel Barnard, Colonel Cullum, Lieutenant-Colonel Tower, Lieutenant-Colonel Wright, Major Warren, Major Abbot—Detailed to witness experiments with Lay's torpedo in the harbor of Newport, R. I. S. O. No. 133, par. 1, H. Q. C. of E., Nov. 1.

Lieutenant-Colonel Blunt—Granted leave of absence

for twenty days. S. O. No. 184, par. 1, H. Q. C. of E., Nov. 5.

Board of Engineers on Cape Fear river.—Directed by S. O. No. 132, H. Q. C. of E., Oct. 31, 1872, to meet on the 13th inst., to postpone its session subject to the call of the senior officer. S. O. No. 136, H. Q. C. of E., November 7.

Battalion of Engineers—Band, field, and staff, and three companies (of fifty men each), to proceed to Philadelphia, as part of the escort in the funeral of Major-General Meade. S. O. No. 218, Department of the East, Nov. 8.

Lieutenant-Colonel Blunt—Relieved from his temporary station in New York city, to proceed to his permanent station at Key West, Fla. S. O. No. 146, H. Q. C. of E., Nov. 25.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI

Lieutenant-Gen. P. H. Sheridan: *Headq'r's Chicago, Ill.*

Major-General Hancock, assigned to the command of the Military Division of the Atlantic, was relieved from duty in this division December 3; and until Brigadier-General Terry, assigned to the command of the Department of Dakota, enters upon his duties, the Lieutenant-General commanding the division was directed to give, through the department staff, such directions as may be necessary in that department.

DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA.

Brigadier-General Alfred H. Terry: *Headquarters, St. Paul, Minn.*

Fort Rice, D. T.—The commanding officer of Fort Rice, D. T., November 29 was authorized to enlist ten additional Indian scouts for duty at that post.

Seventh Infantry.—Leave of absence for thirty days was granted Captain G. L. Browning, on surgeon's certificate of disability, November 27.

The Telegraph.—The Northwestern Telegraph Company having officially notified the department commander that it was not the company's intention to maintain their line in operation between Fargo and Edwinton (Northern Pacific Railroad crossing, Missouri river), D. T., during the present winter, but offering the use of the line for military purposes, if kept in repair and worked by the military authorities, and it being deemed of great importance to the public interests to maintain the line in working order, especially in view of the existing Indian relations on the Upper Missouri, the commanding officers of Fort Seward and Camp Hancock November 27 were directed to send "repairers" by the Military Express Mail, along the line, from time to time, when necessary to keep it in working order. An operator was also authorized to be employed in the Quartermaster's Department, until April 15, 1873, at each of the posts mentioned, at a monthly compensation not to exceed \$65 per month, and one ration. Materials for repairs of the line, and for the working of the necessary batteries, will be supplied free of cost by the telegraph company, on the requisition of the operators, approved by the respective post commanders.

Fort Abercrombie, D. T.—It being impracticable for the acting assistant inspector-general of the department to make the current monthly inspection at Fort Abercrombie, D. T., as directed in G. O. No. 76, c. s., from department headquarters, the commanding officer of that post was directed to make the required inspection.

DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI.

Brigadier-General John Pope: *Headquarters, Fort Leavenworth.*

Sixth Cavalry.—Leave of absence for thirty days, with permission to apply at headquarters Military Division of the Missouri for an extension of thirty days, was granted Captain J. J. Upham December 3.

Third Infantry.—Leave of absence for thirty days was granted Major R. I. Dodge December 2.

Fort Hays, Kansas.—Chaplain Collins, writing from this post, says: "Several errors occurred in my last communication, but only one is of sufficient importance to notice. My friend Lieutenant Hentig is serving in command of his company at Fort Riley. Lieutenant Henely, a graduate of 1872, is here with Company F, Sixth Cavalry. Cases of hydrophobia are uncomfortably frequent in this vicinity. Dogs, calves, hogs, and skunks have the disease. But the greatest danger is from the packs of useless curs that infest military posts, and disgrace small villages. They should be 'summarily dealt with,' and I hope, as our civilization advances, gentlemen will perceive that their dignity is not increased by 'keeping a dog.' That is John Allen's business. Thanksgiving was a holiday. A grand dinner at the hospital under the efficient supervision of Dr. Janeway, 'was a success.' The bill of fare was so very sumptuous that it reminded me of hotel life. But the sequel was thorny, some ungodly scamps, not having the fear of pills and blisters before their eyes, entered the hospital during the night and stole almost 'twelve basketfuls.' The thieves had better avoid the justly indignant surgeon, for he may apply some *cantharis villata* to the covering of their *gluteus maximus*. He threatens this punishment. The non-commissioned officers of Company F, Sixth Cavalry, gave a splendid ball in the evening.

"The wind 'without did roar and rustle'—
They 'no cared for the storm a whistle'."

"The post chapel will soon be finished; also a large room for social amusements. Then I hope to see Sabbath and day schools established. The winter is here with great severity. Ice in Big Creek is eight inches thick. But we have not had any rain for three months. The frequent deaths among those who were actors in the great war suggests a thought to my mind. It is this: I think it would be well for all the living actors to write out a personal experience from 1861 to 1865, and leave the manuscript as a legacy to surviving friends or a historical society. Much ridiculous stuff would be preserved, but more of the greatest value. Fym's garrulous journal and Walpole's gossiping let-

ters are almost historical text-books, and before a century passes the journals of soldiers who fought for the Union will be more important and interesting than the latest novel."

District of New Mexico.—Fifteenth Infantry.—First Lieutenant Thomas Blair, November 16 was ordered to temporarily perform the duties of acting assistant adjutant-general of the district.

The following assignments of officers to posts in the District of New Mexico were made November 23, and are not to be changed without the authority of the department commander:

Fort Union, N. M.—Colonel J. Irving Gregg, Eighth Cavalry, to the command of the fort; Captain A. J. McGonigle, A. Q. M., U. S. A., to the duties of A. Q. M.; First Lieutenant George F. Foote, R. Q. M., Eighth Cavalry, to the duties of A. C. S.

Fort Wingate, N. M.—Major William Redwood Price, Eighth Cavalry, to the command of the fort; Second Lieutenant Samuel W. Fountain, Eighth Cavalry, to the duties of A. A. Q. M. and A. C. S.

Fort Craig, N. M.—Captain James H. Stewart, Fifteenth Infantry, to the command of the fort; First Lieutenant J. B. Eagle, Fifteenth Infantry, to the duties of A. A. Q. M. and A. C. S.

Fort Cummings, N. M.—Captain E. W. Whittemore, Fifteenth Infantry, to the command of the fort, his company, F, Fifteenth Infantry, changing station with that of Captain Steelhammer's company, G, Fifteenth Infantry; First Lieutenant H. H. Humphreys, Fifteenth Infantry, to the duties of A. A. Q. M. and A. C. S.

Fort Bayard, N. M.—Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas C. Devin, Eighth Cavalry, to the command of the fort; First Lieutenant Thomas Blair, Fifteenth Infantry, to the duties of A. A. Q. M. and A. C. S.

Fort Stanton, N. M.—Captain Chambers McKibbin, Fifteenth Infantry, to the command of the fort; First Lieutenant A. G. Hennisee, Eighth Cavalry, to the duties of A. A. Q. M. and A. C. S.

Fort Selden, N. M.—Major D. R. Clendenin, Eighth Cavalry, to the command of the fort; Second Lieutenant E. A. Godwin, Eighth Cavalry, to the duties of A. A. Q. M. and A. C. S.

Fort Garland, C. T.—Major A. J. Alexander, Eighth Cavalry, to the command of the fort; First Lieutenant W. T. Hartz, Fifteenth Infantry, to the duties of A. A. Q. M. and A. C. S.

Fort Tulerosa, N. M.—Captain F. W. Coleman, Fifteenth Infantry, to the command of the fort; First Lieutenant J. W. Bean, Fifteenth Infantry, to the duties of A. A. Q. M. and A. C. S.

Fort McRae.—First Lieutenant H. J. Farnsworth, Eighth Cavalry, to the command of detachment now at Fort McRae, and to the duties of A. A. Q. M. and A. C. S. with it.

The officers above mentioned will, without delay, proceed to the posts set opposite their names, and assume the duties to which they are herein assigned. The authority vested in Lieutenant-Colonel T. C. Devin, Eighth Cavalry, by virtue of instructions from department headquarters, over the posts of Forts Bayard, Cummings, Selden, McRae, Stanton, Tulerosa, and Craig, is not affected by this order.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PLATTE.

Brigadier-General E. O. C. Ord, *Headquarters, Omaha, Nebraska.*

Second Lieutenant James Farnance, Company C, has been promoted to be first lieutenant (Company B), Thirteenth Infantry, to date from June 29, 1872, vice Fitzpatrick, retired, and Second Lieutenant Jerauld A. Olmsted (Company K), to be first lieutenant (Company C), Thirteenth Infantry, to date from July 1, 1872, vice Townsend, resigned. They will be dropped from the rolls of the companies to which they lately belonged, as of their former rank, and will be taken up, with their present rank, on the rolls of the companies to which they have been promoted. Lieutenant Farnance December 6 was ordered to join his company, and Lieutenant Olmsted to join his company, upon the arrival of a second lieutenant for duty with Company K, Thirteenth Infantry.

Third Cavalry.—Leave of absence for thirty days was granted Second Lieutenant Augustus C. Paul, November 29. A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort McPherson, Neb., December 3. Assistant Surgeon Joseph H. T. King, Medical Department, and the following officers of the Third Cavalry were detailed for the court: Colonel Joseph J. Reynolds, Captain Gerald Russell, First Lieutenants Joseph Lawson, Albert D. King, A. D. Bache Smead, Second Lieutenant James F. Simpson. Second Lieutenant Andrew H. Russell, judge-advocate.

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS.

Brigadier-General C. C. Augur: *Headquarters San Antonio, Texas.*

Leave of absence for thirty days, with permission to apply for an extension of sixty days, November 29 was granted Captain E. J. Strang, A. Q. M., U. S. Army; provided that this leave does not take effect until Captain Strang shall have been relieved by Major Belger, quartermaster U. S. Army.

Paragraph 2, S. O. No. 208, c. s., from department headquarters, is revoked.

Acting Assistant Surgeon F. P. Cleary, U. S. Army, November 29 was ordered to report to the commanding officer Fort Sill, I. T., for assignment to duty.

The leave of absence granted A. A. Surgeon A. L. Buffington, U. S. Army, in S. O. No. 193, c. s., Fort McKavett, Texas, was extended five days November 27.

Par. 4, S. O. No. 113, c. s., from department headquarters, is revoked.

A. A. Surgeon H. L. Lewis, U. S. Army, on duty at Fort Concho, Texas, December 2 was ordered to Fort Bliss, Texas, relieving A. A. Surgeon E. H. Bowman, U. S. Army, who was ordered to relieve A. A. Surgeon R. Gale, U. S. Army.

The contract of A. A. Surgeon E. H. Bowman, U. S.

Army, was annulled December 2, he being relieved from duty at Fort Bliss, Texas, his services being no longer required. Dr. Bowman was granted mileage to Austin, Texas, the place of making his contract.

The contract of A. A. Surgeon R. W. Dorsey, U. S. Army, on duty at Fort Gibson, is annulled at his own request, to date December 31, 1872. Under the terms of his contract, Dr. Dorsey will be entitled to mileage from Fort Gibson, I. T., to Washington, D. C.

The contract of A. A. Surgeon B. Gessen, U. S. Army, on duty at Fort Sill, I. T., has been annulled, to date December 15, 1872. Dr. Gessen is entitled to mileage or transportation to the place of making his contract.

Tenth Cavalry.—Leave of absence for thirty days was granted November 23 to Major D. B. McKibbin, with permission to apply for an extension of thirty days.

Eleventh Infantry.—The seven days' leave granted Captain M. Jackson, at Fort Richardson, Texas, November 19, was extended five days November 30.

Twenty-fifth Infantry.—Company C, November 25 was transferred from Fort Gibson to Fort Sill, Indian Territory.

Fort Concho, Texas.—Our correspondent "Frontier," writing from this post under date of November 26, says: "We still have the Indian prisoners (captured by the Fourth Cavalry, under General Mackenzie last September) at this post. They are all seemingly in good health and apparently quite contented, as well they might be, seeing that they have almost everything they need. They are under the personal charge of Lieutenant W. C. Miller, Fourth Cavalry, a young officer who assisted very materially in securing them immediately after their capture. A few nights ago, when the officer of the day, Lieutenant Brown, Eleventh Infantry, visited the guard stationed over the Indian prisoners, he was rather taken aback by the sergeant reporting the fact that there was one more Indian in the stockade than had been turned over. The officer of the day inquired how he had got in past the guard, feeling at the same time rather vexed at the supposed negligence of the guard; but investigation proved that the guard had nothing to do with it, and could not prevent the presence of Mr. Lo among the prisoners—one of the squaws having become a mother during the night. The officer of the day had no remarks to make, and came out of the stockade looking as solemn as a judge. The infant savage is flourishing, and seems quite contented strapped to his board. Rumors have reached here that a large body of Camanches left the reservation at Fort Sill with the avowed object of coming down here and taking the squaws and papooses from out the hands of Uncle Sam. Wishes are freely expressed that they will come, as there would be a great many more Indian funerals than there were on the 29th of last September, on Red river, when the Fourth Cavalry sent many a one of them to the 'happy hunting grounds.' Every precaution has been taken by the commanding officer of the post, General John P. Hatch, to guard against surprise, and the utmost vigilance is exercised to guard against the noble (?) red men stealing a march on us. If they do come they will doubtless receive as warm a reception as the noble red men did that attacked Fort Defiance, N. M., before the war. The only anxiety experienced apparently by the command is that they won't come. Quite a party of officers are off on a foraging expedition, up the South Concho, anxiously looking for 'Turkeys' so as to have something 'extra' for Thanksgiving dinner, as beef begins to get monotonous after living on nothing else for six months. Turkeys have been very plenty in the vicinity of the post lately, several small hunting parties having brought in over one hundred during the past ten days. Our hearts were made glad to-day by the arrival of a commissary train, by which we received a little butter and some so so tea, with a few other articles of 'extra groceries' which we unfortunately had not been able to procure for a long, long time. Just let any of your Northern readers imagine us without a pound of butter or an ounce of tea, or anything but bread, meat, and coffee and sugar, for nearly three months—whole families, ladies and children, living on dry bread, tough beef, and coffee without milk in many cases—and then talk of the high living in the army, etc. etc! Irish potatoes, when procurable, are worth fifteen dollars a barrel out here; but one barrel is divided into a great many portions to suit the pockets of poor Army officers that can't afford to pay fifteen dollars for a barrel of Irish potatoes and pay for their new uniform too. Ways and means engage the serious attention of many a man in the Army to whom Comic Sections or the Differential Calculus would be only pastimes, while the 'ways and means' problem is a puzzler.

Our post looks very well indeed, and is exceedingly quiet—every officer and man being strong admirers of the 'water wagon' which is far above par—and whiskey is at a frightful discount. The post is exceedingly healthy, which is most certainly to be attributed to the fact that no fire water is indulged in.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE SOUTH.

Major-General I. McDowell: *Headq'r's Louisville, Ky.*

UNDER the title of "A Fit Appointment," the N. Y. *Evening Mail* thus refers to the promotion of Brigadier-General McDowell:

The appointment of General McDowell to the major-generalship left vacant through the death of General Meade will be criticised in the Army, but we believe will be generally approved as one extremely fit to be made. It was General McDowell's misfortune, and not his fault, that he won no more laurels during the late war. Had he not been compelled to fight the first Bull Run battle before he was ready, he might have come out of the war as one of our most successful generals. As it was, military critics are agreed as to the ability shown by him in his plans for that battle.

In all his subsequent career during the war he served faithfully wherever he was ordered and was always loyal

to his superiors. As a theoretical soldier he has no superior. He is probably the most accomplished military student in our Army, and is, besides, a man of very unusual general attainments and culture.

As the senior brigadier of the Army his selection for promotion was, incidentally, a recognition of the principle which underlies the Civil Service Reform, although, of course, seniority would not avail in case one of his juniors in time of service was decidedly better entitled to the major-generalship. His promotion will leave General Pope the senior brigadier, upon the retirement of General Cooke, which cannot be long delayed. Some day or other we want to see General Pope's promotion as a sort of partial recompense for the grievous injustice endured by one of the ablest and most earnest officers in our army.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.

Major-General I. McDowell: Headquarters, Louisville, Kentucky. Lexington, Ky.—This post is to be discontinued.

DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF.

Colonel W. H. Emory: Headquarters, New Orleans, La.

Third Artillery.—Assistant Surgeon R. S. Vickery, U. S. Army, was November 28 ordered to accompany the batteries of the Third Artillery on the steamer *Maynolia* to New York city and return by rail to New Orleans, La.

Nineteenth Infantry.—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Jackson Barracks, Louisiana, December 9. The following officers of the Nineteenth Infantry were detailed for the court: Captains Jacob H. Smith, C. W. Hotsenpiller, Luke O'Reilly, First Lieutenant Mark Walker, Second Lieutenants Thomas M. Wenie, George K. Spencer, William M. Bandy. First Lieutenant H. H. Crews, judge-advocate.

Captain C. W. Hotsenpiller, after detaching an officer and ten men to remain temporarily at Holly Springs, Mississippi, November 19 was ordered with his company, E, to Jackson Barracks, La., reporting to the commanding officer of that post for duty.

A. A. Surgeon William Deal, U. S. Army, was relieved from duty at Holly Springs, Mississippi, December 2, and ordered to Aberdeen, Mississippi, for duty, relieving Acting Assistant Surgeon Christopher Happoldt, whose contract was annulled.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE ATLANTIC.

Major-General W. S. Hancock: Headquarters, Philadelphia.

DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST.

Major-General W. S. Hancock: Headquarters, cor. Greene and Houston sts., N. Y.

The following officers were registered at headquarters Department of the East for the week ending December 10: Captain P. L. Lee, Tenth Cavalry; First Lieutenant J. M. Kelly, Tenth Cavalry; Colonel W. B. Hazen, Sixth Infantry; Major R. I. Dodge, Third Infantry; Captain Richard Arnold, Fifth Artillery; Captain Charles E. Morse, Sixteenth Infantry; Assistant Surgeon R. S. Vickery, U. S. Army; Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. Ayers, Third Artillery; Second Lieutenant E. E. Wood, Eighth Cavalry; First Lieutenant Charles Humphreys, Third Artillery; Assistant Surgeon A. Delaney, U. S. Army; Captain C. B. Phillips, Corps of Engineers; Second Lieutenant C. A. H. McCauley, Third Artillery; Captain N. B. McLaughlin, Fourth Cavalry.

The extension of leave of absence granted Surgeon J. C. McKee, U. S. Army, in par. 4, S. O. No. 228, c. s., from department headquarters, was extended six days December 9.

Major-General Winfield S. Hancock will make his headquarters at the Army building, New York, late the headquarters of Major-General McDowell, who left the city with his personal staff (First Lieutenants A. B. Gardner, First Artillery, J. H. Coster, Eighth Cavalry, and Second Lieutenant J. H. Jones, Fourth Cavalry), for Louisville, Ky., the headquarters of the Department of the South, on Monday, December 8. On General Hancock's arrival, he will assume command of the Military Division of the Atlantic, and also of the Department of the East. His personal staff (Captains W. G. Mitchell, Fifth Infantry, J. S. Wharton, Nineteenth Infantry, First Lieutenant G. S. L. Ward, Twenty-second Infantry), will accompany him to the East. The following officers will compose the division staff: Colonel R. C. Drum, assistant adjutant-general U. S. Army; Adjutant-General Major E. H. Ludington, assistant inspector-general U. S. A.; Inspector-General Colonel C. L. Kilburn, assistant commissary-general of subsistence U. S. A., chief commissary of subsistence; Major S. Crispin, Ordnance Department U. S. A., chief ordnance officer. The department staff, it is expected will remain the same, with one exception, and is composed of the following officers: Major Chauncey McKeever, assistant adjutant-general U. S. Army, adjutant-general; Major Thomas F. Barr, judge-advocate U. S. Army, judge-advocate; Colonel Rufus Ingalls, assistant quartermaster-general U. S. Army, chief quartermaster; Major William W. Burns, commissary of subsistence U. S. Army, chief commissary of subsistence; Surgeon John M. Cuyler, U. S. Army, medical director; Surgeon John Moore, U. S. Army, attending surgeon; Colonel Nathan W. Brown, assistant paymaster-general U. S. Army, chief paymaster. General Hancock's arrival is expected this week.

A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort Columbus, N. Y. H., December 9. Detail for the court: Captain William Sinclair, Third Artillery; First Lieutenant G. W. H. Stouch, Third Infantry; First Lieutenant Charles Keller, Second Infantry; Second Lieutenant R. G. Rutherford, Twelfth Infantry; Second Lieutenant A. T. Abbott, Third Artillery; Second Lieutenant J. M. Califf, Third Artillery; Second Lieutenant C. A. H. McCauley, Third Artillery. First Lieutenant Charles Humphreys, Third Artillery, judge-advocate.

Fifth Artillery.—Leave of absence for twenty days was granted First Lieutenant E. R. Hills, adjutant Fifth Artillery, December 5.

Third Artillery.—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort Hamilton, N. Y. H., December 5. The following officers of the Third Artillery were detailed for the court: Captain Lorenzo Lorain, First Lieutenants J. R. Kelly, James Chester, C. M. Callahan, C. W. Harrold, Second Lieutenant C. W. Hobbs. First Lieutenant J. B. Eaton, judge-advocate.

Artillery School, Fort Monroe, Va.—Leave of absence for the number of days set opposite their names, December 4 was granted the following named officers on duty at the Artillery School, Fort Monroe, Va.: Captain S. N. Benjamin, Second Artillery, sixteen days; Captain E. R. Warner, Third Artillery, eighteen days; First Lieutenants Arthur Morris, Fourth Artillery, J. A. Fessenden, Fifth Artillery, and F. W. Hess, Third Artillery, fifteen days each; First Lieutenant F. Robinson, Fifth Artillery, fourteen days; First Lieutenant D. D. Wheeler, First Artillery, fifteen days; Second Lieutenants Allyn Capron, First Artillery, G. P. Cotton, First Artillery, W. B. Weir, Fifth Artillery, and C. A. Postley, Third Artillery, fifteen days each.

DEPARTMENT OF THE LAKES.

Brigadier-General P. St. G. Cooke: Headquarters, Detroit, Mich.

First Infantry.—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort Wayne, Michigan, December 4. Surgeon Joseph R. Smith, U. S. Army, and the following officers of the First Infantry, were detailed for the court: Captains R. H. Offley, Kinzie Bates, George S. Gallupe, First Lieutenants D. F. Callinan, R. G. Heiner, H. R. Jones. Second Lieutenant Gilbert S. Jennings, judge-advocate.

Leave of absence for thirty days was granted First Lieutenant F. M. Lynde December 5.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE PACIFIC.

Major-General J. M. Schofield: Headquarters San Francisco, Cal.

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA.

Twelfth Infantry.—The commanding officer Angel Island, November 23 was directed to send all enlisted men on the island belonging to Company C to Fort Hall, Idaho, in charge of a trusty non-commissioned officer, who will return to his proper station on completion of this duty. The following is a list of the stations of the companies of this regiment: Headquarters, Angel Island; Company A, Camp Wright; Company B, Camp Independence, Cal.; Company C, Fort Hall, I. T.; Company D, Fort Yuma; Company E, Camp Gaston, Cal.; Company F, Beale's Springs, A. T.; Company G, Angel Island, Cal.; Company H, Camp McDermit, Nev.; Company I, Camp Mojave, A. T.; Company K, Camp Gaston, Cal.

Twenty-third Infantry.—Second Lieutenant Orlando L. Wieting, November 26 was directed to report to First Lieutenant Edward Field, Fourth Artillery, to accompany the recruits for the Twenty-third Infantry, by the steamer *Neuborn*, on the next trip of that steamer to Fort Yuma, California, on arrival at which place he will receive orders from the commanding officer Department of Arizona.

DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA.

Brigadier-General E. R. S. Canby: Headquarters, Portland, Oregon.

Twenty-first Infantry.—On the arrival of Company E, Fourth Artillery, at Fort Stevens, an officer and fifteen men were ordered to be sent to Fort Cape Disappointment to relieve the detachment of Company I, Twenty-first Infantry, now at that post. The detachment, when relieved by the detachment of Company E, Fourth Artillery, was ordered to join its company at Fort Stevens, when the company will be relieved from further duty under S. O. No. 137, c. s., from department headquarters, and return to its station, Fort Vancouver, W. T. On its arrival at Portland, Oregon, Company B, Twenty-first Infantry, was ordered to Fort Vancouver, to take post there.

DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA.

Lieutenant-Colonel George Crook: Headquarters, Prescott, A. T.

A New Indian Reservation.—The following order of Special Commissioner Howard, setting apart an Indian reservation to be known as the Chiricahua Reservation, is published for the information and guidance of all concerned: There is set apart for an Indian reservation the following described public lands, to be called the Chiricahua Reservation, viz.: Beginning at Dragoon Springs, near Dragoon Pass in Arizona, to run north-westerly, touching the north base of Chiricahua Mountains, to a point on summit of Stein's Peak, Peloncillo range; thence southeasterly along said range through Stein's Peak to New Mexican boundary; thence due south to Mexican boundary; thence westerly along said boundary fifty-five miles; thence northerly, following substantially the western base of the Dragoon Mountain range to place of beginning. This general description will obtain till a careful locating of points and lines by survey shall be made. In accordance with instructions from the Secretary of the Interior, and subject to the approval of the President.

Officers' Quarters, etc.—In carrying out the provisions of G. O. No. 81, A. G. O., series of 1870, the following rules will be observed: 1. Each set of officers' quarters will be numbered in figures, legible to persons passing, and each article of furniture will, in addition to the quartermaster's brand, bear a number corresponding with the set of quarters for which it is furnished. Officers entitled to quarters will also be entitled to the furniture belonging to the set, and quartermasters responsible for the property may require a memorandum receipt for the same. 2. The furniture belonging to a set

of quarters will not be permanently detached therefrom, whether the set is occupied or not.

Fifth Cavalry.—Second Lieutenant C. H. Rockwell, appointed regimental quartermaster, November 13 was relieved from his present duties, and ordered to report in person for duty to the commanding officer of his regiment at Camp McDowell, A. T.

Payment of Troops.—Major J. H. Nelson, paymaster, November 15 was ordered to proceed to pay the troops stationed at Camps McDowell, Date Creek, Hualpai, Beale's Springs, Mojave, and Fort Whipple, A. T., to include October 31.

Rewards for Bravery.—With a view to proper recognition, commanding officers of detachments operating against hostile Indians are directed in General Orders to take special care to report the conduct of enlisted men who, by acts of individual daring in action, or other special and conspicuous service, are entitled to commendation and reward. No recommendation will be made without careful investigation into all the facts, which will be fully set forth in the report.

THE NAVY.

The Editor invites for this department of the JOURNAL all facts of interest to the Navy, especially such as relate to the movements of officers or vessels.

VARIOUS NAVAL ITEMS.

THE Worcester arrived at Key West November 29.

THE Wyoming left Naval anchorage December 5, for Key West.

THE Tallapoosa left Washington December 10, on a tour to the Yards.

THE Bonicia left San Francisco December 6, for Honolulu and a general cruise.

THE California will leave San Francisco about the 15th of December, for the Sandwich Islands.

THE Powhatan and *Saugus* arrived at Norfolk December 5. They left Philadelphia November 28.

THE Alaska left Shanghai, China, for New York on the 25th of October, via Hong Kong, Singapore, and Cape of Good Hope. She started amid rousing cheers from all the sailors of the fleet, burning of powder and the playing of the bands. The Chinese navy joined in the festivities and sent her two Mandarins, commanders of two gunboats, on board.

THE Saranac arrived at San Francisco the 23d of November, as previously announced by telegraph, from Panama, having visited Corinto and Acapulco. While the *Saranac* was at Acapulco the P. M. s. *Arizona*, completely disabled, was towed into port by the American steamer *Salvador*, having broken her piston and cylinder. The *Constitution* took her in tow for San Francisco, and Captain Phelps of the *Saranac* gave the services of that vessel as convoy for the steamers, and accompanied them to San Francisco. To do this Captain Phelps had to deviate from his course, but the serious consequences that might follow from the *Constitution* breaking down, thus leaving the two steamers with several hundred passengers on board and some two millions of dollars at the mercy of the waves, fully justified him in his action, which has been heartily approved of by the Navy Department.

THE Tuscarora arrived at Callao, Peru, November 9, last from Valparaiso, which port she reached October 26, twelve days from the Gulf of Penas. Several gales of wind were encountered on the passage from the Gulf to Valparaiso, one of which was the heaviest that had been experienced for some time. The *Tuscarora* rode it out beautifully under close-reefed main topsail, main trysail and scandalized spanker. The new English flag-ship, H. M. iron-clad frigate *Republie*, Rear-Admiral Hillyar, which arrived at Valparaiso the day after the *Tuscarora*, encountered the same gale further to the south and carried away her fore-yard. H. M. sloop *Tenedos* arrived at Valparaiso about November 15. She is one of a new class of sloops with compound engines, which will work up to thirteen knots an hour. She can steam twenty days at the rate of eight knots an hour, on 230 tons of coal, the amount she carries. Her battery consists of 2 6 1-2 ton and 6 4 1-2 ton rifled guns, displacement 1755 tons—draught of water, 17 feet. The health of the officers and crew of the *Tuscarora* continues good.

DURING the great fire in Boston the steam engines and other fire apparatus of the Charlestown Navy-yard assisted during the conflagration, and afterward, for many days, aided in controlling the burning ruins. Powder was furnished for blowing up buildings. The marines and sailors were sent, and aided in preserving order, keeping the streets clear, and guarding property until State troops could be assembled. Afterward a portion of the marines were for several days employed in guarding the public funds at the post-office and sub-treasury. The commandant of the yard, Commodore Parrott, in reporting officially these facts, stated that from all quarters he received assurances of the excellent conduct of those engaged, and of the importance of the aid furnished. The city postmaster at Boston, W. L. Burt, Esq., has addressed a letter to Commodore E. G. Parrott, commandant of the yard, in recognition of and thanking him for the aid rendered by the naval authorities on the occasion. Mr. Burt compliments the devotedness of the marines under Captains Collum and Wallace, who were engaged in guarding the Sub-Treasury and Post-office Building, and thanks Commodore Parrott for his foresightedness in anticipating the demands made upon him, and in having everything ready to respond at a moment's notice. He says: "It was a great source of satisfaction to him that while every department of the U. S. Government was more or less intimately connected with the terrible conflagration, all met the demands of the occasion and came out with credit to themselves."

DESPATCHES from Rear-Admiral Thornton A. Jenkins, commanding the Asiatic station, dated Wusung Anchorage, below Shanghai, October 23, have been received by the Navy Department. The following are given as the movements of the Rear-Admiral and the vessels on the station since the date of the last monthly report: On the morning of September 15 Rear-Admiral Jenkins embarked on board the *Ashuelot* for conveyance to Taku, at the mouth of the Peiho, and Tien-tsin on the river above. He arrived at Tien-tsin in the afternoon of September 17, and the U. S. Consul, Mr. Meadows, was requested to notify the Viceroy or Governor-General of the Province of Pechili the next morning of the presence of the Rear-Admiral, and of his desire to pay his respects at such time as would be convenient. The Viceroy promptly replied that he would be pleased to receive such a visit at 1 o'clock of the 17th. At the appointed time the Admiral and his staff and the Consul proceeded to the Yamen and were received by the Viceroy and his official attendants with great courtesy and apparent cordiality. Quite a prolonged visit was the result, during which many interesting topics were discussed. The entire interview was most satisfactory. Li Hung Chung, the Viceroy, is one of the great Chinese generals, and has a great reputation throughout China for military ability as well as for the wisdom of his civil administration. He is perhaps the second in authority and power to the Emperor. The visit was returned by him and suite the following day, and they were received with all due honors and shown throughout the *Ashuelot*. A very intelligent appreciation of the vessel and her equipment was evinced, and the guns and small arms of the ship were objects of especial attention. From Tien-tsin Rear-Admiral Jenkins with his staff proceeded in small covered boats to Teng-chan, the head of navigation on the Peiho, and were thence conveyed to Pekin in the usual vehicles of travel, which are anything but comfortable. At Pekin the Admiral and staff were presented by our minister, Mr. Low, to Prince Kung and his colleagues, and a very satisfactory and pleasant interview took place. The Imperial party were quite courteous, easy and affable in manner, and fluent in conversation. The prince expressed a desire to return the visit, but for various reasons, one of which was the preparations for the approaching nuptials of the Emperor, Rear-Admiral Jenkins asked that the formality of returning the visit might be dispensed with. The ceremony was accordingly waived, and cards of the Prince Kung and his colleagues were sent to the Admiral shortly after he reached the legation. Rear-Admiral Jenkins expresses his great obligations to Minister Low for his hospitality and attentions, and to the attaches of the legations of European nations at Pekin, who were extremely courteous. The British minister, Mr. Wade, the Russian minister, General Vlangalle, the French minister, M. Geofroy, and the German *charge d'affaires*, Mr. Amecker, were very kind and attentive while the representatives of our Navy were at Pekin. The Rear-Admiral and party proceeded in boats to the mouth of the Peiho, there embarked on the *Monocacy*, and rejoined the *Colorado* at Chefoo October 12, sailing the same day, and arriving at Shanghai October 21. On the 26th he expected to proceed to Hong Kong, thence to Singapore, from which the *Colorado* would sail about December 1 for New York, he transferring his flag to the *Lackawanna*. The *Alaska* left Shanghai October 23 for Hong Kong, at which place she would take in stores and sail for New York via Cape of Good Hope. The *Ashuelot* was at Tien-tsin, where she will spend the winter. The *Troquois* arrived at Shanghai October 13 from Swatow and Amoy, and would remain there until the return of Rear-Admiral Jenkins from the North, Commander Adams representing the Admiral on the coast of China during his absence. The *Lackawanna* was at Wusung anchorage October 22, having arrived a few days previously from the coast of Japan. She was going up to Shanghai, thence to Hong Kong and Singapore, at which latter port Rear-Admiral Jenkins would transfer his flag to her from the *Colorado*. The *Monocacy* arrived at Wusung anchorage October 15 from Chefoo. She was under orders to proceed up the Yang-tze river to Hankow, the head of navigation, visiting all ports en route. She would be engaged on this service well into winter, and then return to Shanghai. The *Saco*, repairing at Shanghai, it was expected would leave in December for the coast of Japan. The *Palos* returned to Shanghai September 20 from Ningpo, and was at Wusung anchorage September 23. She expected to go in a few days to Ningpo, remain there several weeks, and then return to Shanghai.

THE survey sloop *Portsmouth* is detained at the Brooklyn Navy-yard waiting for a steam launch, constructed by Mr. Ingersoll of New York, and which was not received at the Navy-yard until last Tuesday. It is now in the machine shop where its engine was constructed, and where it is being put in. The launch and engine are modelled after the English cutter now on the *Portsmouth*, and will be a sister boat, and it is hoped that it will steam nine knots an hour. It can hardly be got ready before the 20th or 24th instant, thus delaying the sailing of the *Portsmouth* until about Christmas. We understand Commander Skerrett's sailing orders have been somewhat altered from those previously published in the JOURNAL. Instead of going to Panama and surveying the coast of Lower California and the Gulf of California, it has been deemed advisable to order the U. S. steamer *Narragansett* on that duty, as a portion of the work in that vicinity will present difficulties to a sailing vessel which a steamer would not encounter. The work here destined for the *Narragansett* will probably require a year's time to accomplish, during which it is expected that Commander R. W. Meade will command the *Narragansett*, and at the end of that time his three years' sea service will have expired. The *Narragansett* assuming the particular surveying duties mentioned, the *Portsmouth* will only proceed to Valparaiso, en route from New York, stopping at Rio de Janeiro, if deemed advisable. From Valparaiso the *Portsmouth* will sail to Honolulu, and after testing the correctness of her chronometers, will proceed East, as a matter of course taking advantage of the N. E. trade-winds, and

continue to Japan. If found practicable a southerly return will be made, but if this is found impossible a northerly course of necessity will have to be made, to return to San Francisco. From thence a fresh start will be made across the Pacific, the course continuing further south as the work progresses, and terminating San Carlos, Chili. After the completion of the survey of Lower California the *Narragansett* will join the *Portsmouth* wherever that vessel may be at that time, to assist Commander Skerrett in his work, and thus it will be much more rapidly carried on. These vessels will not only engage in surveying but will gather facts relating to the natural sciences, and specimens will be collected and forwarded to the Smithsonian Institute at Washington. This latter work will be prosecuted during the spare time offered while on the survey, but is not to interfere with it any way, as that will be the particular work of the cruise. It has been several times stated that Commander Skerrett is ordered on the Darien surveying expedition to finish Commander Selfridge's work. That is a mistake, as Commander Selfridge will finish his duties at Darien, and Commander Skerrett's duties are of an entirely different nature.

NAVAL REPORTS.

AMONG the papers forming the appendix to the annual report of the Secretary of the Navy, is the report of the board of visitors to the Naval Academy, made in June last. The board speak of the evident devotion of Commodore Worden to the discharge of his responsible duties, his identification with the interests of the Academy, his firmness, blended with kindness, in the administration of discipline to insure the best results, his efforts to suppress immorality by appeals to the nobler sentiments of the young men. The former recommendation of previous boards is renewed, that an addition be made to the grounds on the northwest side of the Academy to the extent of the twelve acres which now divide the property of the institution, if practicable, or by the purchase of a strip of some 300 feet, to give a proper rear to the barracks, remove a bad neighborhood, and permit the drainage of an unhealthy marsh. A new armory building is recommended. The board also recommend that the qualifications for admission be raised so as to correspond with those required at the Military Academy, and thus dispense with instruction in arithmetic, English grammar, and geography, during the academic course; and that the minimum age for admission be sixteen years, and the maximum eighteen years. A four years' course for cadet engineers is suggested, after which they should make a two years' cruise and return to the Academy for competitive examination and status in the service. In view of the growing importance of steam as a motive power, the board consider it indispensable that both the midshipmen and the engineer corps should be educated to the highest attainable point in that profession, not only for the benefit of the naval service, but also for the promotion of that branch of science throughout the country. The board concur in the suggestion of the Secretary of the Navy, in his report of December, 1871, that the term of cadetship for midshipmen be increased from four to six years. A minority or supplemental report is also appended, signed by one of the members (Mr. Niles, of New Jersey), containing additional suggestions. The knowledge of French acquired at the Academy is considered in all respects inadequate, the graduates, as a general rule, being unable to maintain an ordinary conversation in that language. It is recommended that more time be given to this study, and that during the third and fourth years of the course one or more of the text books used in other branches of instruction be in the French language. In all enlightened countries navy officers, to command due respect to the flag, should be able to carry on an official or social conversation without an interpreter. More attention to the study of international law is suggested, and the services of the best legal talent in the country should be availed of, and a professorship of that science established. A naval commander's acquaintance with international law, in general principles and in details, must be thorough, ready, and independent, as it often serves the country a better turn than the guns his ship carries. The fact of some of the officers attached to the Academy having to rent houses outside the enclosure is alluded to as objectionable; and it is suggested, in order that the chaplain may have time for the discharge of many pastoral duties other than those of public exhortation, that he should be provided with assistance to some extent. This can be provided satisfactorily by the Secretary of the Navy, if so authorized, inviting distinguished ministers of various denominations to preach before the Academy at stated times, each once or twice during the year, the Government to pay their travelling expenses. Mr. Jones, of Ohio, in a minority report, suggests that visitors should be appointed for stated terms, say one year, with authority to visit at discretion during the period, with such a tenure and such facilities that they could inform themselves in regard to the matters on which they are expected to report to the Secretary of the Navy. As the objects of these annual visits are supposed to be to communicate information to the head of the Navy Department in reference to the instruction, discipline, and management of the institution, and to inform the public of its character and usefulness, these could, it is thought, be better accomplished in the manner suggested. These duties are important and responsible, and with the limited time to obtain information which the present arrangement affords, competent men often undertake them with hesitation and distrust.

Rear-Admiral A. L. Case, chief of the naval Bureau of Ordnance, reports that the operations of the bureau during the past year have been principally confined to the ordinary routine. Satisfactory results have been obtained in the investigation of the all-important question of a suitable powder for heavy cannon, and a practical battery on a limited scale is in course of erection at Fort Madison, near Naval Academy, Annapolis. The torpedo station at Newport, R. I., is recommended

to the fostering care of the Department. The torpedo boat invented by Mr. John L. Lay has been tried successfully, it being completely under control of the operators on shore. It is recommended that Congress be asked to secure at least, by suitable appropriation, the right to manufacture and use these torpedo boats. The cruise of the gunnery practice ship *Constellation* was too brief to produce the results desired. The great difficulty is the want of seamen capable of receiving instruction in ordnance which would enable them to perform the duties of intelligent gun captains. The 15-inch cannon have been completed and delivered—ten at New York and ten at Philadelphia. The Gatling guns have also been completed and delivered, and will be put in service as soon as the carriages for them are finished. Metallic ammunition for these guns is being made by the U. S. Cartridge Company at Lowell, Mass.

The annual report of the Chief of the Naval Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting (Commodore William Reynolds) is brief. The bureau has purchased during the past fiscal year, in the United States and abroad, 44,908 1-2 tons of coal at a cost of \$361,707.80. Also 463 1-2 tons of hemp; 373 1-2 tons of hemp have been manufactured into rope. The rope walk at Boston has supplied the wants of the service, and the equipment shops at Washington have been employed in making anchors, chain cables, and pulleys, and on some necessary repairs and renewals of equipment articles. The number of men allowed by law (8,500) has been maintained. The recommendations of previous years are renewed—that is, for authority to enlist 300 additional men for the practice ships of the Academy; to provide an outfit for enlisted men on entering the service; and for the apprehension of deserters after the expiration of their term of enlistment, and requiring them to serve out their lost time.

A LIBEL SUIT ABANDONED.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: By the advice of my friends and counsel, I have refrained until now from making any reply to the publications of those connected with Chaplain James J. Kane in regard to a libel suit he had brought against me for making an official report of an organ transaction on board the U. S. steamer *Vermont*. But, as he has of his own motion abandoned the suit, it is not improper for me to make that fact known, and to say that I am more than ever satisfied with the justice, propriety, and correctness of the reports I have made.

It may not perhaps be necessary, but I will take this opportunity to give an unqualified denial to whatever publications in regard to this unpleasant affair impugning my motives or conduct therein.

Very truly,

E. B. THOMAS,
Lieutenant U. S. Navy.

NAVY GAZETTE.

REGULAR NAVAL SERVICE.

ORDERED.

DECEMBER 4.—Lieutenant-Commander E. H. Miller, as executive of the receiving ship *Potomac*, at Philadelphia.
Lieutenant-Commander A. T. Snell, as executive of the receiving ship *Vermont*, at New York.
Surgeon Edward M. Stein, to the Navy-yard, Pensacola, Fla.
Passed Assistant Surgeon John W. Coles, to the Naval Hospital, New York.
DECEMBER 5.—Lieutenant Joseph G. Eaton, John T. Sullivan, and Frederick Collins, to special duty in the Darien Survey, under the command of Commander T. O. Selfridge.
Paymaster Edward Foster, as inspector of provisions and clothing at the Navy-yard, Norfolk, on the 1st of January next.
DECEMBER 6.—Gunner Wm. J. Ferguson, to the receiving ship *Potomac*, at Philadelphia.
DECEMBER 7.—Master Edwin H. Wiley, to the *Portsmouth*.
Passed Assistant Paymaster Rufus S. McConnell, to the receiving ship *Sabine*, at Portsmouth, N. H., on the 31st inst.
Acting Carpenter Geo. W. Davis, to the Richmond.
DECEMBER 9.—Surgeon Somerset Robinson, to the receiving ship *Sabine*, at Portsmouth, N. H.
Surgeon Wm. E. Taylor, to the *Saranac*.
Assistant Surgeon George H. Torney, to the store ship *Onward*, at Callao, Peru, per steamer of 30th inst.
DECEMBER 10.—Commander A. T. Mahan, to command the *Wasp*, South Atlantic Station, per steamer of the 23d inst.

DETACHED.

DECEMBER 4.—Captain S. P. Franklin, from the Navy-yard, Washington, and placed on waiting orders.
Lieutenant-Commander B. R. Smith, as executive officer of the *Vermont*, and placed on waiting orders.
Midshipman Frank Ellery, from the Naval Academy, and ordered to the Richmond.
Medical Director J. D. Miller, from the receiving ship *Potomac*, and placed on waiting orders.
Surgeon F. L. Du Bois, from the Navy-yard, Pensacola, and ordered to the Pawnee.
Surgeon Joseph Hagg, from the Naval Hospital, New York, and ordered to the receiving ship *Potomac*.
First Assistant Engineer John Borthwick, from the Michigan, and ordered to duty in the Bureau of Steam Engineering.
DECEMBER 5.—Lieutenant-Commander John J. Read, from the *Portsmouth*, and placed on waiting orders.
Paymaster Wm. N. Watmough, as inspector of provisions, etc., at the Navy-yard, Norfolk, on the 1st of January next, and ordered to settle accounts.
Assistant Paymaster James A. Ring, from the receiving ship *Ohio*, at Boston, and ordered to special duty in the Darien Survey.
DECEMBER 6.—Assistant Paymaster Wm. W. Barry, from the Navy-yard, New York, and placed on waiting orders.
DECEMBER 7.—Lieutenant Wm. I. Moore, from the *St. Mary's*, and ordered to return home and wait orders.
Paymaster R. W. Allen, from the receiving ship *Sabine* on the 31st inst., and ordered to the store ship *Idaho*, at Yokohama, Japan, per steamer of the 1st of March next.
Paymaster W. F. A. Torbert, from the store ship *Idaho*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered to return home and settle accounts.
Carpenter John L. Davis, from the Richmond, and placed on waiting orders.
DECEMBER 9.—Lieutenant Thomas P. Wilson, from the *Lackawanna*, and placed on sick leave.
Surgeon E. C. Vermculin, from the store ship *Onward*, and ordered to return home and wait orders.
Surgeon James S. Knight, from the *Saranac*, and ordered to proceed home and wait orders.
Passed Assistant Surgeon H. M. Rundlett, from the receiving ship *Sabine*, and ordered to duty at the Hospital, Yokohama, Japan, per steamer of the 1st of January next.
Passed Assistant Surgeon J. Rufus Tryon, from the Asiatic Station, and ordered to proceed home and wait orders.
First Assistant Engineer Joseph Trisley, from the *Shawmut*, and placed on waiting orders.
Assistant Surgeon Henry M. Martin, from the Naval Hospital

Washington, and ordered to the receiving ship Sabine, at Portsmouth, N. H.

RESIGNED.

DECEMBER 5.—Lieutenant Henry Whelan, detached from torpedo duty, and resignation accepted, to take effect on the 2d of June, 1873.

Lieutenant Henry C. Wisner's resignation accepted, to take effect on the 17th of April, 1873.

Cadet Engineer Wm. C. Jeffry's resignation accepted, to take effect on the 6th of December, 1872.

REVOKED.

DECEMBER 10.—The orders of Lieutenant-Commander Yates Stirling to the California, and placed on sick leave.

LIST OF DEATHS

In the Navy of the United States which have been reported to the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Navy and chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery for the week ending December 1, 1872:

Henry O. Macey, Lieutenant, December 6, Naval Hospital, Chelsea.

Julian Torrie, seaman, November 7, U. S. steamer Wabash.

William Saxby, landsman, November 4, Naval Hospital, Yokohama, Japan.

CHANGES IN THE MARINE CORPS.

The following are the changes in the officers of the Marine Corps since last memorandum, viz.:

DECEMBER 4.—Major James Lewis, by direction of Navy Department, orders dated headquarters U. S. Marine Corps, Washington, D. C., 16th November, 1872, revoked, to proceed to New York, assume command of Recruiting Rendezvous, 89 Chatham street, and report by letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Charles G. McGawley, U. S. Marine Corps, superintendent of recruiting.

DECEMBER 5.—Second Lieutenant Julius C. Shailer, granted leave of absence 30 thirty days.

DECEMBER 7.—Second Lieutenant Albert H. O'Brien, granted leave of absence until January 1, 1873.

DECEMBER 9.—Captain R. W. Huntington, ordered to be detached from duty at Marine Barracks, Washington, D. C., to proceed to Pensacola, Fla., and assume command of U. S. Marines stationed at that port.

Captain Joseph F. Baker, detached from Recruiting Rendezvous, 89 Chatham street, New York, to proceed to Washington, D. C., and report for duty at Marine Barracks.

First Lieutenant Henry J. Bishop, by direction of Navy Department, detached from U. S. steamer Pensacola, and to report for duty at Marine Barracks, Mare Island, Cal.

Second Lieutenant James D. Hervilly, by direction of Navy Department, detached from Marine Barracks, Mare Island, Cal., and to report for duty on board U. S. steamer Pensacola.

CHANGES AND TRANSFERS IN POSITIONS OF OFFICERS ON THE ASIATIC STATION.

August 17.—Lieutenant Joseph Marthon, from the Monocacy to the Idaho.

Master J. R. Selfridge, from the Idaho to the Lackawanna.

SEPTEMBER 13.—Master T. D. Bolles, from the Iroquois to the Ashuelot.

Lieutenant George F. Wilkins, detached from the Ashuelot, and ordered home in the Alaska.

Lieutenant R. E. Impey, from the Iroquois to the Ashuelot.

Master F. J. Drake, from the Ashuelot to the Colorado.

OCTOBER 31.—Lieutenant-Commander John H. Rowland, from the Iroquois, and to command the Palos.

Lieutenant C. H. Rockwell, from the command of the Palos, and ordered home in the Alaska.

Assistant Surgeon F. K. Hartzel, from the Palos, and ordered home in the Colorado.

Acting Assistant Surgeon J. C. Whitehead, from the Iroquois to the Palos.

Master E. K. Moore, from the Monocacy, and ordered home in the Colorado.

Master C. W. Ruschenberger, from the Lackawanna to the Iroquois.

Ensign C. A. Clarke, from the Colorado to the Saco.

Master R. C. Davenport, from the Iroquois to the Saco.

Ensign M. E. Hall, from the Iroquois to the Monocacy.

Master J. C. Wilson, from the Iroquois to the Monocacy.

Lieutenant J. E. Jones, from the Palos, and ordered home in the Alaska.

Lieutenant W. H. Webb, from the Monocacy to the Palos.

Master T. T. Wool, from the Iroquois to the Monocacy.

Lieutenant H. E. Nichols, back from the Monocacy to the Lackawanna.

Master H. L. Tremaine, from the Iroquois to the Monocacy.

Second Assistant Engineer F. L. Cooper, from the Alaska to the Palos.

First Assistant Engineer John Lowe, from the Palos to the Alaska.

OCTOBER 22.—Midshipman L. C. Hellner, from the Colorado to the Iroquois.

Midshipman J. H. Utley, from the Colorado to the Iroquois.

Midshipman C. McDonald, from the Colorado to the Iroquois.

LETTERS IN THE NEW YORK POST-OFFICE.

The following is a list of letters remaining in the New York Post-office on the dates given. These letters are retained in the New York Office for one month from date, after which they are sent to the Dead-Letter Office, Washington:

DECEMBER 10.
Duncan, E. A., General. Marvin, S. E., General.
Forsyth, Robert, Colonel. Oliver, Captain.

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U. S. ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

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OUR readers may remember that we published in the JOURNAL, in April of 1870, an account of a movable submarine torpedo invented by Captain ERICSSON, the leading features of which are that it may be directed under water to any desirable point, and it is propelled by a motive agency exerting continuous power. The idea of destroying an enemy's vessel by an attack under water by some machine propelled at a certain depth, dates far back. The modes of accomplishing this object have been as various as the experiments have been numerous. In nearly all maritime countries for more than a decade, a prime naval problem has been to propel under water a body containing some explosive substance, to be ignited on coming in contact with the object intended to be destroyed. In all cases, the great difficulty experienced has proved to be the want of adequate motive power. It is well known that the highest mechanical and chemical talent of the age has been devoted to the solution of the problem of discovering a substance occupying little space, yet capable of generating a continuous motive energy. The celebrated BRUNEL, nearly half a century ago, pointed out carbonic acid gas as the most suitable agent to develop great power; but he found, on carrying his ideas into effect, that serious practical obstacles presented themselves, owing to the difficulty of obtaining vessels strong and tight enough to retain the gas. The difficulties consequent on the reduction of temperature during the expansion of the carbonic gas also proved formidable. Numerous engines operated by carbonic acid have been constructed in the meantime, but the problem of storing in a small space a sufficient quantity to develop a continuous mechanical energy, remains, it appears, as far from solution as when BRUNEL first employed carbonic acid as a motor. Highly compressed atmospheric air stored in strong vessels has most frequently been resorted to by experimenters. The movable submarine "Austrian Torpedo" has been propelled by this agency with partial success; but no mode of storing up sufficient motive power has yet been discovered capable of rendering this over-rated torpedo an effective weapon. To overcome the apparently insuperable difficulties resulting from want of motive force, Captain ERICSSON has abolished the plan of storing it up within the torpedo. He accordingly supplies the motive energy, compressed atmospheric air, while the missile moves toward its destination. This is effected by means of a tubular cable connected with an air receiver on shore, or on board of some armored screw vessel of low freeboard. The tubular cable is coiled round a reel turning on a hollow axle, the air from the receiver passing through the same into the tubular cable while the latter is being reeled off, during the progress of the torpedo toward the enemy's vessel. The compressed air being supplied by steam power, it is evident that an amount of motive energy may be obtained sufficient to propel the submarine torpedo at any desirable speed, during an indefinite time. It merits particular notice that the position of the rudder of the torpedo is regulated by admitting more or less air into the tubular cable. The steering therefore is effected by simply changing the position of the handle of the stop valve which

regulates the admission of air into the tube of the cable. Regarding other points of detail, the reader is referred to the account before mentioned, and to Captain ERICSSON's letter to the Secretary of the Navy, which we insert in another place.

FULL and complete instructions have been issued to Commander JOSEPH S. SKERRETT, commanding the U. S. steamer *Portsmouth*, which is about to depart from New York on surveying service in the Pacific. The service contemplated is to be a continuous and connected hydrographic survey, which will be somewhat different from the expeditions that have been heretofore fitted out by our Government for purposes of discovery and scientific exploration.

Although the primary and main object will be the survey, whenever opportunities offer, information is to be collected in various branches of natural science to the full extent the means afforded will allow. In all its branches the survey is to be conducted in a most thorough and scientific manner. Specimens in the various branches of natural science are to be collected and forwarded to the Smithsonian Institution for investigation.

All observations calculated to make the survey as complete as possible are to be made, such as deep sea soundings; the observation of surface and subsurface currents; the specific gravity and salinity of the water at different depths; the configuration of the bottom in the vicinity of shoals and islands, with specimens of the same, etc.

The particular field of survey will be the North Pacific ocean, in belts of 5 deg. from north south, tracking to the westward and eastward, so as to get the benefit of the favorable prevailing winds. All the "reported dangers" in these belts are to be investigated; all reefs, islands, and shoals not heretofore surveyed are to be surveyed, and such as have been surveyed are to be examined, and the correctness of their positions and general features verified. The "Book of Reported Dangers" in the Pacific is to be closely scrutinized, and these dangers are to be established and fixed in their positions, or such evidence of non-existence is to be obtained as to warrant their erasure from the charts.

The *Portsmouth* will proceed to Valparaiso, touching at Rio de Janeiro if necessary; thence to Honolulu, where she will remain only a sufficient time to adjust compasses and prepare for her surveying cruise. En route to Honolulu, such dangers as are in or near the track are to be examined, and every opportunity availed of to make the officers proficient in the branches in which they are to be employed. The Navy Department looks with pride on this expedition, and anticipates results creditable to the Navy and the country.

A CORRESPONDENT writes us in regard to a decision of ours given in reply to a correspondent, to the effect that a deserter can be brought to trial, no matter how long a period may have elapsed between the date of the commission of the offence and that of his apprehension. The question is of so great importance that we give to the answer the prominence of this place.

The old practice in the Army was to try deserters when apprehended, no matter how long the absence, and the two year's limitation of the 88th Article of War was not and is not applicable to the offence of desertion. It was held by the Attorney-General of the United States, in an official opinion delivered by him August 16, 1858, on this very question, that among the circumstances which may cause delay in bringing a soldier to trial within the two years, are "Those that are created or interposed by the act of the party." Said he:

"Causes of delay arising from the conduct of a party accused—are 'manifest impediments' within the meaning of the 88th Article. It is a broad principle of law and natural justice, that no man can take advantage of his own wrong. Accordingly wherever we find statutes of limitation in favor of offenders, they are coupled with an exception against persons beyond the jurisdiction of the proper court and fugitives from justice."

It was decided (in the case of the U. S. v. White), that the "defendant is not entitled to the benefit of the limitation, if within the two years he left any place or concealed himself to avoid detection or punishment for any offence, and such a fleeing from justice need not be averred in the indictment." The 88th Article itself provides that the limitation shall run "unless the person by reason of having absented himself, etc., shall not have been amenable to justice within that period."

Under the 20th Article of War, punishment for desertion is discretionary, but the nature and degree of the offence are absolutely indeterminate until the apprehension or surrender of the prisoner and the place of apprehension. Hence it becomes impossible to prepare an indictment for submission to the proper commanding general who can bring to trial, until these facts are known. The 41st Article of War provides for the trial of soldiers absent over a mile from their stations without a pass, and the 22d Article declares that a soldier who leaves his regiment and even at once enlists in another and is subsequently discovered, shall be reputed a deserter and suffer accordingly—so it is not necessary for the Government to prove they made every exertion to arrest a deserter, prior to such arrest, in order to try him after two years.

The very charge of desertion implies absence without leave, and the *animus non revertendi* is created by the prisoner himself and not by the Government. We find that President MONROE, in a General Order of May 17, 1821, when the Army was reduced under act of Congress, announced "that all deserters from the Army of the United States previous to the date of this order, might peaceably and safely return to their homes without being subject to punishment or trial on account of such desertion."

These views are founded in common sense, because otherwise a deserter would have it always in his power to avoid service and punishment. Thus a soldier enlisted for five years, might at the end of six months become tired of "soldiering," desert, go to a remote part of the country and at the end of the two years return to the place where his company might be serving, perfectly at liberty to avoid the remaining two and a half years of his enlistment contract. An old act of 1802, specially provided that if a soldier deserted he should, in addition to the penalties for the offence, be liable to serve for and during a period sufficient to complete his enlistment, which was then for five years, "and such soldier shall and may be tried by a Court-martial and punished, although the term of his enlistment may have elapsed previous to his being apprehended or tried." If the 88th Article of War enacted by Congress in 1806 in any way superseded this, nevertheless the act of 1802 was specifically re-enacted in 1812 and again in 1813, and seems to put beyond all question the authority to arrest and try a deserter no matter how long he may have been absent.

THE continued appreciation by the Chinese Government of our institutions is shown by the fact that during the recent interview of the commanding officer of our Naval forces on the Asiatic station with the Viceroy at Tien-tsin, allusion was made by the latter to the fact of several Chinese officials having been sent with thirty Chinese youth to the United States to be educated, and he indicated that it was the intention of the Emperor's Government to increase the number of pupils to one hundred and fifty. Rear-Admiral JENKINS expressed his gratification at hearing of this proposition of the Imperial Government, which he considered highly complimentary to the United States, and trusted that China would never have cause to regret having taken such a step.

In answer to a correspondent who asks, "Is the Cavalry superior to the Artillery in the United States Army?" it is sufficient to say that in the old Regulations for our Army, the rank of corps was prescribed as follows: 1. The Light or Horse Artillery. 2. The Light Dragoons. 3. Other Regular Cavalry. 4. The Foot Artillery. 5. The Infantry. 6. Detachments of the U. S. Marine Corps serving on land. 7. The Riflemen. 8. Volunteer Corps. 9. Militia. This was at a time when the artillery was specifically divided by law, so that only one company in each regiment could be mounted without an act of Congress. Since then the entire artillery arm has been transferred from company to battery organizations, first in 1861, by Presidential order confirmed by act of Congress, and subsequently equally specifically by the act of July 28, 1866. In consequence all the batteries now performing heavy artillery duty are simply dismounted and may at any time be furnished with horses by orders from any proper authority. The above distinctions in the old regulations have not been repeated in the

latest ones, though in the British Regulations, the precedence of corps is provided for as follows: 1. The Royal Horse Artillery. 2. The regiments of Household Cavalry. 3. The Cavalry of the Line. 4. The Royal Regiment of Artillery. 5. The Corps of Royal Engineers. 6. The Military Train. 7. The Regiments of Foot Guards. 8. The Regiments of Infantry of the Line. 9. The Royal Marines after the Forty-ninth Foot. 10. The Rifle Brigade after the Ninety-third Foot. 11. The Militia. Technically in the United States service, no one corps is considered as superior to another—though officers naturally have preferences as to the particular arms they prefer serving in and as to particular regiments in those arms.

THE Commissary-General of Subsistence, in his annual report to the Secretary of War, calls attention to the great embarrassment to which this branch of the military service is subjected by the want of proper assistants for the post commissaries. The Subsistence Department is required to keep on hand and sell to officers and enlisted men articles formerly supplied by sutlers, the sales of tobacco alone amounting during the year to over one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Young subaltern officers, who have never "kept store," are assigned to duty in the Subsistence Department and held peculiarly responsible for the supplies entrusted to them. For the want of reliable assistants there are frequent losses of stores, which are charged against them until they can clear themselves from responsibility. This is unjust to these officers and injurious to the Government. As a remedy, General EATON recommends that Congress be asked to authorize the Secretary of War to select commissary sergeants from the non-commissioned officers of the Army who shall have faithfully served therein at least five years, of which three years shall have been in the grade of non-commissioned officer, as many of these being appointed as the service may require, not exceeding one for each military post or depot of commissary stores. The suggestion is a wise one, and we hope Congress will act upon it.

THE House of Representatives has passed the bill to increase the Navy, with an amendment offered by Mr. Hale, requiring that one-half the vessels to be built shall be built in private ship-yards, and an amendment offered by Mr. Banks, limiting the number of guns they are to carry to ten. The number of the vessels was also reduced to six, and it was provided that plans and estimates be reported to Congress, and an appropriation made before the work is commenced. Secretary Robeson has appeared before the Senate Naval Committee to ask that the bill be restored to its original condition.

The original bill appropriated three millions for the building of ten war steamers, each to carry ten or more guns of large calibre. The debate on the bill was remarkable for the fact that it brought out even more than ordinarily the dense ignorance of the House on the wants of the Navy. The original proposition was absurd on its face. To attempt to construct "ten steam vessels of war to carry ten or more guns of large calibre, for three millions of dollars," is to propose a project too ridiculous for even a moment's consideration. The absurdity is increased by the fact that the bill provided that the new vessels might be of either "iron or wood." During the debate Mr. Schofield expressed the opinion that "four or five hundred tons would be large enough for these vessels." Mr. Cox, evidently a well-salted seaman, suggested the "obtaining of live-oak timber, out of which a Navy might be built." Mr. Porter inquired as to what use these vessels were to be applied. Mr. Banks felt that the prospect of trouble with Spain argued the necessity of the passage of the bill, and other wise Congressmen had like advice to offer, as, for instance, Mr. Schofield again, who expressed the opinion that "four or five hundred tons would be enough."

Vessels to fulfil the conditions required by this bill are no such gun-boats as Mr. Schofield talked about, of five hundred to a thousand tons, but large-sized ships with a displacement equal to carrying the heavy armament demanded, and supporting the steam machinery and fuel necessary to give a decent speed.

The House has also during the week considered a Soldiers' Bounty Land Bill, which bears such manifest tokens of being a job that it is not likely to pass in its present shape. General Hawley very justly opposed it on the ground that it would surely result in throwing a large amount of our public domain into the hands of the land sharks. If it is desired to equalize bounties it is a far better to make a direct appropriation for that purpose. Our public lands should be kept for actual set-

ters. They have a cash value so that the country can well afford to keep them for sale, and pay over to our soldiers and sailors a larger amount than they would ever realize from them in hard cash. The House has passed the Indian appropriation bill after a debate in which various gentlemen had their annual fling at the management of our Indian affairs. A resolution offered by Mr. Scott was adopted, requesting the Secretary of War to communicate to the Senate a list of the officers of the regular Army who have been retired under the provisions of the act of 1866, and a statement of the actual rank held by them in the regular Army and the volunteer army, and of the rank held by them when wounded, and the rank and pay on which they have been retired; and also a list of those who have applied to be retired under the act of 1872, with their rank and pay.

Senator Hamlin presented a memorial of George E. Preble asking to be restored to his rank in the Navy, and said that having examined the case carefully, he was satisfied that the petitioner had been treated with great harshness, and he hoped the Committee on Naval Affairs would give the matter early and full consideration. It was referred to Committee on Naval Affairs. Captain Preble has submitted to Congress a printed memorial on the subject accompanied by letters, documents and testimonials. We sincerely hope that it will receive the attention it deserves. A bill was introduced into both houses, authorizing the transportation in a United States vessel and the free admission of a sailors' monuments designed by Admiral Porter and now being executed in Rome by the American sculptor Simmons.

The bill allowing the family of Admiral Dahlgren to carry their claim for remuneration by the Government for the invention of the gun bearing his name to the Court of Claims, passed the Senate without objection or debate. The bill provides that the court shall take into consideration the facts that the time of the inventor and the cost of the experiments which led to the perfection of the Dahlgren gun were paid for by the Government, and if afterwards it should find that the value of the invention entitles the heirs of the inventor to further compensation, it shall decide upon a proper amount of money.

GENERAL SHERMAN has been before the House Committee on Military Affairs, and devoted two hours to an exposition of the relations of the Ordnance and Engineer Departments to the Army, of which he is the military head. The General's strong opposition to the present independence of those departments is well understood. It remains to be seen whether Congress can be persuaded to take any interest in a question which is full of such perplexity as this is to which their attention is invited.

THE Vallejo Chronicle of November 30 says: "The U. S. Survey steamer *Hassler* will leave our harbor today. She goes to San Francisco; from thence it is expected she will go to San Diego. The officers of this vessel have made a thorough survey of our harbor, and have executed a new chart thereof, which is said to be a fine piece of work. They found a place between Commission Rock and the Magazine where the channel was considerably shallowed, caused by the dumping of dirt from the barge of the dredging machine." The same paper also reports that, at the request of the sorrowing wife of the late Paymaster G. L. Mead, no military or other show was made in respect to the deceased. There was a simple service of prayers at the residence on the morning of December 1, and at 9 o'clock the remains were taken on board the steam launch *Lively*, thence to the steamer *New World* at South Vallejo. At San Francisco they were to be placed in a vault until the arrival of friends from the East, when the body would be taken to New York State for interment. The deceased was a Mason of high standing.

THE Washington National Republic, of December 9, says: "General Sherman went before the House Military Committee on Friday last, and opposed the proposition to consolidate the Quartermaster, Commissary, and Pay Corps of the Army. His remarks were taken down in full for comparison with the views of other officers of rank and experience. The General also argued against the present independence of the Scientific Corps of the Army from subordination to military command, not extending his argument, however, to the civil works of river and harbor improvement, in which the Army engineers are chiefly engaged. The committee are expected to take up this session the question of permitting the large number of vacancies in the Medical Corps to be filled, it being alleged by the Surgeon-General and confirmed by the Secretary of War that the sanitary condition of the Army is prejudiced by the want of permanent and skilled medical officers."

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications published under this head. His purpose is to allow the largest freedom of discussion consistent with propriety and good feeling.

LINE AND STAFF.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: In your issue of November 23 a correspondent opens the winter campaign of the line against the staff. He predicates his article on what some newspaper correspondent said the Secretary of War was going to say in his annual report. Rather too soon to begin, one would think; but he probably started early because—as may be inferred from his want of force—he is a little lame. There is nothing in what he says which requires an answer, but he is one of a class of line officers whose course toward the staff suggests a variety of inquiries.

Now why, pray, do they attack the staff at all? They have never shown—not many of them assert even—that the staff have ever wronged them or been derelict in their duties toward them. When they claim that the staff are mere “adjuncts to the Army”—agents to supply their wants—we ask, are not their wants well supplied? “Barring the bubble”—that is, leaving out the exceptional cases—is there an army in the world better fed, better clothed, better doctored, better paid, better armed, and, considering the nature of its services, better quartered than ours? And whoever thinks that there is anything else—anything over and above the best of provisions, clothing, physic, arms and quarters, authorized for the line of the Army, of which he is deprived by the staff, has only to bring forward his proofs to punish the guilty and secure justice to all. Charges, specifications, and a fair hearing are always in order, but general denunciation is, to say the least of it, in very bad taste—for an officer.

The misnamed war between the line and the staff is a war on one side only. No one has ever known the staff to attack the line; they have hardly even made defence when attacked. Yet how persistently are they assailed! Their occasional shortcomings are noted, and are published in letters to Congressmen, in the newspapers and magazines, and even in books intended, or supposed to be intended, for the whole world. A recent volume, “The School and the Army,” under the guise of furnishing information relating to the schools and armies of Prussia, is devoted in part to abuse of them. In another communication we may take occasion to notice certain of its statements.

But, notwithstanding the abuse heaped upon them, the staff have kept their temper throughout, and, fortunately for the general reputation of the service, have not carried the “war” into Africa. And what a horrible showing they might make, if they condescended to employ newspapers and books in touching up the exceptional frailties of the line! Camps surprised! Commands defeated! Property lost to an inferior enemy! Marches badly conducted! Regiments and troops demoralized and inefficient from the neglect, incompetency, drunkenness, and gross immorality of commanders! They could indeed a tale unfold that, on occasion, would throw their assailants into confusion—horse, foot, and dragoons—and make them rue the day they had ever attacked the staff! But the good name of the service is of more value to the latter than the defeat of their brother officers in a war of recrimination, and they prefer to see an officer who acts in any way unbecomingly his responsible position, put on trial before his peers of a court-martial, to putting him on trial before the readers of the public journals. They do not think that individual exceptions to the ability, integrity, and efficiency of the line constitute any argument why the artillery, cavalry, and infantry should be abolished and their work let out to contract, or why these organizations should be consolidated into one corps, or their respective officers selected from some other arm of the service by detail. They only know that they and the line belong to the same house, and that the more the house they both belong to is divided against itself, the more likely it is to fall into disrepute with the people, who cannot be made to understand or appreciate their causes of quarrel, if any there really be. An accusation by the line against the staff, or by the staff against the line, is sure to make on the public mind an impression unfavorable to the Army; but the institution of legal proceedings by one of ourselves against an offending officer is not only right and proper in itself as a duty, but in the end will be duly credited to us by our masters the people, who in the main are just, if they are not generous. The fact is, our standing Army, as an institution, has not a very strong hold on public favor or affection, though the individuals comprising it may be highly esteemed by the Government, and by larger or smaller circles of acquaintances and friends, and the further we get away from the time of any special service rendered by it, the less strong will that hold be, owing to the natural tendency to dispense with it altogether. Being a republic, we leave the dead past, with its worn-out statesmen, generals, and other public servants, to bury its own dead, and concern ourselves only with the living issues of the time; and in so doing we do that which makes us a nation stronger and stronger every day. There is no “daddyism” in Uncle Sam. He does not reward friends or punish enemies for deeds of the past; he deals only with the present. The question he asks is not what have you done heretofore, but what can you do now. Looked at from the standpoint of gratitude alone, these may not appear to be high qualities, but they make us the most thrifty and progressive nation on earth.

The action of Congress in reducing the number, rank, authority, and allowances of the Army is due solely to the sentiment of the people above hinted at, and it is preposterous to charge it to the staff, who, when they

have said anything upon the subject, have said it in an official form, and generally in favorable terms.

Then, again, there are not a few who, without any of this unaccountable feeling against the staff, advise radical legislation in staff matters. They are unprejudiced, certainly, and are therefore entitled to a respectful hearing. But are they wise in the things that pertain to the staff? That, after all, is the question, for, whether prejudiced or unprejudiced, your unskilled counsellor is a very unsafe guide. So far as he knows, his advice cannot amount to more than six in one, and half-a-dozen in the other, it being but guess-work at best, and just as likely to be wrong as right. His opinions are mere talk about “reorganization” and “consolidation,” one or the other of which is his panacea for all the ills to which the Army is heir. Like Sangrado, whose patients all died, he has the one remedy for everything.

For a long time in our early history we borrowed pretty much all we knew of military affairs from the British; but they ceased to be our models after the Crimean War. The French military systems, too, were once the rage, and there were among us those who urged the adoption of this, that, and the other French notion or “system,” and we did not hear the last of Johnny Crapeau until Sedan and the humiliation of *la grande nation*. Now we are urged to adopt the Prussian system, the advocate of which ought to understand not only that system, but our own also, before presuming to enlighten us. The plain truth of the matter is, we have done with foreign “systems” and want none of them! We are a thinking, inventive, progressive people, getting most of our learning in the rough school of experience. We can perceive the truths developed by Europeans and apply them or not to our own case; but we cannot engraft their military systems upon our military establishment any more than we can engraft their monarchical systems upon our civil polity. Our Army is scattered over half a continent, and has to protect interests unknown to Germany. In time of peace the Prussian has little else to do than prepare for war; but our Army is always at war, and is only maintained because it is at war. If the whole of it were concentrated and quartered permanently in, say, the State of Massachusetts, and its ranks were filled by citizens thereof taken in turn, and with the certainty of never having to operate outside of New England, it would be in a condition like enough to that of the Prussian army to render plausible the proposition to engraft upon it the Prussian staff system. But this system, even in that case, would not be tolerated by the American people, for, being very military, it is very despotic. The staff of the Prussian army is the creation and the creature of one man—Von Moltke. He selects its members, appoints and promotes them, and prescribes the regulations by which they are governed, and in all this he has no law but his own will. Would the like system suit us?

The formation of the Prussian staff proceeds upon the principle that its members should be the most intelligent, the most capable, and the most cultivated of all the officers of the army. To this end selections are made from all the lieutenants who may apply after three years' service with their regiments, and those designated—usually about forty a year—are sent to the military school at Berlin, where they pursue a thorough course of study for three years, returning, however, during the months of July, August, and September of each year to their respective regiments to take part in the field manoeuvres and exercises. During this three years' course the superintendent and professors at the academy note the peculiar qualifications of each student, and make up their minds as to his merits. At the end of the three years all are, without any examination, returned to their regiments. Some time in the following year twelve of the best qualified of those thus returned are chosen for further instruction, and ordered each to duty for nine months in a different arm of the service from his own. As many of the twelve as are favorably reported on after this ordeal are then sent to Berlin for temporary or trial duty on the general staff, still, however, belonging to and wearing the uniform of their original arm of service. Here they remain for a year and a half or two years under the eye—under the instruction, in fact—of Von Moltke. During this period he decides who of them shall be appointed into the staff; but, from courtesy to those not chosen, all are again returned to their regiments. Subsequently the chosen are appointed captains in the staff, don its uniform, and assume its regular duties in the War Department and at headquarters of corps and divisions. Their duties—prescribed in general terms by Von Moltke—are performed under the various corps and division commanders, and do not embrace clerical duties, these falling to the share of non-commissioned officers and privates, who perform them under the staff officers' direction. After two years of this sort of service these captains are again sent to regiments, to command companies, troops, and batteries, care being taken not to assign any one to the regiment from which he originally came, so as not unnecessarily to mortify his old companions by placing him in command over them. When about two years are spent thus they are promoted to the grade of major in the staff, and they then resume their staff duties, and are assigned by Von Moltke to what may be called the general staff of the army, or the grand general staff. In reaching the grade of major these officers gain some seven or eight years in promotion over their companions of the line. After this they have no special advantages in the way of promotion, but go on under the rule of seniority, as the rest of the army does. It is a rule, however, that before promotion the major and lieutenant-colonel shall each serve about a year with a regiment, to preserve his horsemanship and habits of command.

It thus appears that the Prussians devote about ten years to the instruction of their best officers before appointing them fully into the staff. Their time is thenceforth devoted to the study and practice of the higher branches of the military profession. We are told by an observant writer that “these officers are subjects of jealousy to the rest of the army.” But this, as he remarks, is a very narrow sentiment, because credit

must be given to the staff for their real merit and the incessant labor which they perform. The salient point in their staff system is that they bestow time and money upon their specialty to the full extent that the same are necessary, and give their staff officers increased rank and high consideration. This has produced individual proficiency. The mere organization of their staff has little or nothing to do with it; and there is no greater folly than to suppose that an act of Congress adopting that organization, or destroying our own, is going to supply, or contribute materially in supplying, our officers with the military information which the Prussian staff officers acquire only by long-sustained study and application. In so far, however, as the Prussians nourish and develop their specialties we could imitate them to advantage. But our people are not going to adopt their system of promoting an officer up to the grade of major, with full pay, in so short a time as ten years, for doing nothing but studying his profession! The school in which we must educate our staff officers is the school of self-education after appointment, the hard school of every-day practice.

With these facts staring us in the face, all this talk about “reorganization” and “consolidation” and about the Prussian system is mere clap-trap! We ought to have done with it.

TEXAS.

THE SECRETARY OF WAR AND THE ARMY.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: How to reduce the expenses of the Army is a problem always broached on the assembling of Congress, and also much talked of during the session. That the Secretary of War regards it as a desideratum, his report plainly shows. He recommends the abolition from the line of the Army of eighty officers of the grade of lieutenant, who are now filling the positions of regimental adjutants and quartermasters, and claims that a saving of \$160,000 per annum will be made thereby. Without discussing the advisability of abolishing these offices, or the accuracy of the alleged estimate of economy, we will see whether, throughout his report, the Secretary adheres to his desire to abolish supernumerary officers, and effect substantial retrenchment.

After specifically endorsing the request of the Chief of Ordnance, that the Ordnance Corps be filled to its maximum, and that the bar to promotion in it, imposed by the act of March 3, 1869, be removed, the Secretary recommends the same expansion for all the other staff corps. This bar to promotion in the staff was imposed when the numerical strength of the line of the Army was by law reduced 33 1-3 per cent. Friends at court saved the reduction in the staff organization by substituting the stoppage of promotion, “until otherwise directed by law.” These same friends have ever since been endeavoring to fasten upon the Army a staff organization that was designed for a force one-third larger than we at present possess. The Ordnance organization is by law allowed seventy-seven officers. Since promotion was stopped one colonel, two lieutenant-colonels, two majors, four captains, three first-lieutenants, and three second lieutenants, and two military store-keepers' positions have been vacated. The aggregate of the annual salaries of the above officers is about \$45,000; this in itself is no small sum, but it must be remembered that an officer of Ordnance is one of the most expensive luxuries the country enjoys. Arsenals and armories must be built to give him employment; and, partaking of the tender and expensive nature of all luxuries, he must be housed with care, and surrounded with more elaborate shelter than the more common animal, his line brother. Abandoned to the shelter a quartermaster would furnish, this sensitive exotic would become shorter-lived than a Dyer projectile; and the corps would disintegrate more rapidly than did the last 12-inch rifle under a dose of Lieutenant Dutton's mammoth powder.

If a Congressman would fully understand what it costs to house an officer of Ordnance, he has but to stroll down 4 1-2 street to Washington Arsenal, and look at what remains of the old District of Columbia Penitentiary. The two wings of that substantial edifice have been transformed into three sets of officers' quarters, at an expense of at least \$50,000. The regulation allowance of quarters to the officers occupying them would be seven rooms and three kitchens. In this case the cost of sheltering Ordnance officers is \$5,000 per room!

At the Watertown Arsenal in Massachusetts the commanding officer's quarters cost about \$50,000, or about \$10,000 a room. At Rock Island Arsenal the commanding officer's quarters, not yet completed, are to cost \$90,000 or no less than \$18,000 a room!

The inquiring Congressman would get a very accurate idea of the cost of an Ordnance officer if he would call for a statement showing the number of rooms at each arsenal, assignable as quarters, including conservatories, the original cost, and cost of repairs and alterations of the same for the last twenty years, and the number and rank of the officers who have inhabited them.

In case the Secretary succeeds in getting rid of his \$160,000 worth of line lieutenants, we fear his economy will be questionable if his staff recommendations are carried out. Especially will this be so if the “large arsenal of construction and repair upon the Atlantic coast” has to be built.

Besides the vacancies mentioned in the Ordnance, there are at present four colonels, nine lieutenant-colonels, seven majors, and sixty-five captains' positions vacant in the other staff corps. The aggregate annual salaries of the above officers will amount to \$238,000; making with the salaries of the Ordnance officers already mentioned an aggregate of \$283,000. The Secretary by his recommendations would retrench \$160,000 on salaries of eighty line lieutenants, and increase \$283,000 on staff salaries; in other words he would increase the annual expense of the Army on salaries above \$123,000. A consistent and earnest desire for economy and reform could be best fulfilled by reducing the large staff corps, with their immense accumulations of rank, in a proportional manner to the reductions that have been made in the line of the Army.

FLAGELLUM.

HEALTH OF THE ARMY.

In his annual report to the Secretary of War, dated October 1, 1872, Surgeon-General Barnes states that he expended during the year ending June 30, 1872, \$498,673.04, of which \$7,000 was for the Army Museum, \$7,290.73 for the relief of sick and disabled soldiers, and the rest for the Medical and Hospital Department. Of this \$177,753.66 was for current expenses; and it is estimated that \$25,361.31 will be required to pay for supplies and services contracted for.

The number of applications approved during the year for artificial limbs or commutation for the same was as follows: Commutation—Legs, 148; feet, 7; arms, 219; apparatus, 132. Limbs in kind—Legs, 75; feet, 4; arms, 27; apparatus, 1.

The monthly reports of sick and wounded received during the year represent an annual average mean strength of 24,101 white, and 2,494 colored troops. Among the white troops the total number of cases of all kinds reported as taken on the sick list was 47,575, being at the rate of 1,974 per 1,000 of mean strength. (That is very nearly two entries on sick report during the year for each man.) Of the whole number 40,265, or 1,671 per 1,000 of strength, were taken on the sick report for disease, and 7,310, or 303 per 1,000 of strength, for wounds, accidents, and injuries. The average number constantly on sick report during the year was 1,217, or 51 per 1,000 of strength. Of these 902, or 40 per 1,000 of strength, were under treatment for disease, and 255, or 11 per 1,000 of strength, for wounds, accidents, and injuries.

The total number of deaths reported was 367, or 15 per 1,000 of mean strength. Of these 268, or 11 per 1,000 of strength, died of disease, and 99, or 4 per 1,000 of strength, of wounds, accidents, and injuries. The proportion of deaths from all causes to cases treated was 1 death to 130 cases. 846 white soldiers are reported to have been discharged on "surgeon's certificate of disability," being at the rate of 35 per 1,000 of mean strength.

The reports from the colored troops give the following figures, which do not include the white officers: The total number of cases of all kinds reported was 3,514, or 1,409 per 1,000 of mean strength. Of these 2,938, or 1,178 per 1,000 of strength, were cases of disease, and 576, or 231 per 1,000 of strength, were wounds, accidents, and injuries. The average number constantly on the sick report was 103, or 41 per 1,000; of whom 78, or 31 per 1,000, were under treatment for disease, and 25 or 10 per 1,000, for wounds, accidents, and injuries.

The number of deaths from all causes reported was 54, or 23 per 1,000 of strength. Of these 44, or 18 per 1,000 of strength, died of disease, and 10, or four per 1,000, of wounds, accidents, and injuries. The proportion of deaths from all causes to cases treated was 1 death to 65 cases. The number of discharges on "surgeon's certificate of disability" reported was 76, or 30 per 1,000 of mean strength.

In the Record and Pension Division the total number of new applications for information received during the year was 19,237. These new cases added to the 9,244 back cases on hand at the commencement of the year made 28,481 to be disposed of. Search was made and replies furnished to the proper authorities in 23,654 of these cases, leaving 4,827 unsearched cases on hand on the 30th of June, 1872. This number had fallen below 3,000 by the middle of September, and it is confidently believed that with the present force the duties of the division can hereafter be performed with reasonable promptness.

Ten thousand six hundred and twenty-four cases of wounds and injuries and 404 histories of surgical operations were entered in the Division of Surgical Records, making a grand total of 246,426 histories at present on the records of this division. Additional information was entered in 8,325 cases.

The total number of specimens added to the Army Medical Museum during the year was 1,022. The number of visitors to it during the year was over seventeen thousand, many of whom were in search of information not obtainable in any other quarter. Memoranda and photographs have been furnished to assist in the decision of cases of applicants for the benefits of the various acts of Congress in relation to maimed and disabled soldiers and pensioners; and, as the extent of this collection becomes better known, its usefulness is widely increased, not only by affording opportunities for study to the professional man, but also in promoting the ends of justice in supplying evidence for comparison in criminal trials. The Craniological Cabinet contains nearly a thousand specimens, including a large number of crania of existing tribes of Indians, a series of skulls from tumuli, and many rare specimens of artificial deformation of the cranium, making it the most complete cabinet of the kind in this country. The Surgeon-General complains that it has been impossible with the means at his disposal to supply the demand in this country and in Europe for a descriptive catalogue and tabulated measurements of these crania, and earnestly renews the recommendation made in his annual report of 1870, that the necessary legislation be procured to enable him to publish an edition of one thousand of the catalogue and tables of the anatomical section of the Army Medical Museum, in a style similar to Morton's "Crania Americana."

The first part of the Medical and Surgical History of the War was in a state of sufficient forwardness to lay before Congress near the close of the last session. By the wording of the act making appropriation for the continuation and completion of this work its distribution is still to be ordered by Congress. During the year, Circular No. 3, 1871, being a report of surgical cases treated in the Army of the United States from 1865 to 1871, of 300 pages 4to, has been published for distribution. At the commencement of the fiscal year the library of the Surgeon-General's office contained about 14,000 volumes, and a catalogue was printed during the year, making a volume of 454 pages royal 8vo. Since the scope and character of this library have be-

come known much interest has been expressed in its progress by physicians throughout the country, and many valuable contributions of old and rare books have been received. It now contains about 19,000 volumes and 7,000 pamphlets, conveniently arranged in the fire-proof building of the Army Medical Museum, and open to the public under regulations essentially the same as those of the Congressional Library.

NUMBER OF MEDICAL OFFICERS, VACANCIES, ETC.

At the date of the last report there existed 54 vacancies in the Medical Department, as follows: Chief Medical Purveyor, 1 assistant medical purveyor, 3 surgeons, and 49 assistant surgeons. During the past year 1 assistant medical purveyor has been appointed chief medical purveyor, 1 surgeon, 2 assistant surgeons, and 1 medical storekeeper have died, and 1 assistant surgeon has resigned, leaving at present 59 vacancies in the corps, viz.: Two assistant medical purveyors, 4 surgeons, 52 assistant surgeons, and one medical storekeeper.

The number of military posts July 1, 1872, was 210. In conclusion, General Barnes says: "My previous reports have called your attention to the large number of vacancies existing in the Medical Corps, and the injury to it and the service resulting from the prohibition of appointments and promotions. It would require many years to fill the vacancies now existing, as the number of successful candidates rarely exceeds eight or ten in any one year. This is not the greatest evil, for many of the best of our medical officers, having the advantage of the large experience of the late war, disheartened by the faint prospect of advancement, are resigning, and numbers of most desirable candidates, after waiting years for examination, have established themselves in civil practice. With the Army at its present standard, distributed as it now is, there is a constant and absolute necessity for a Medical Corps of the full number established by the act of Congress approved July 28, 1866."

CAPTAIN ERICSSON'S TORPEDO.

NEW YORK, December 10, 1872.

Hon. Geo. M. Robeson, Secretary of the Navy.

SIR: I beg to call your attention to the accompanying description of a movable submarine torpedo, a copy of which I forwarded April 13, 1870, to Vice-Admiral Porter and to the Chief of the Naval Bureau of Ordnance. I also, at the same time, forwarded copies of the said description to the Committees of Naval Affairs of the Senate and of the House of Representatives, in order that Congress, as well as the Navy Department, might be informed of the fact that a submarine torpedo had been devised capable of being propelled under water and directed to any desirable point. The description of the movable submarine torpedo having thus been placed before the executive officers of the Navy Department and before the Naval Committees of Congress, it was taken for granted, in view of the simplicity and obvious efficacy of the device, that the Navy Department would at once order an investigation of this new system of coast defence. It will be proper to mention that I was fully prepared at the time of forwarding this description—and have been ever since—to construct the torpedo, at my own cost and risk, complete for practical test. Nor will it be irrelevant to advert to the fact that I have been urged by persons well acquainted with the state of the naval defences of the country to present a special application to the Department. Had the description referred to not been sufficiently clear to enable the officers of the Department to form a correct judgment of the nature of the invention, it would have been my duty to adopt the course suggested; but, since the detail of the mechanism was described with such minuteness that any skillful engineer could construct the same, the inaction of the Department in the matter rendered the inference irresistible that a movable submarine torpedo does not form part of the means by which it is intended to defend the coast and harbors of the United States. The recent official trial of a torpedo boat at Newport indicates, however, that it is not intended to dispense with movable submarine torpedoes for coast defence. Accordingly I have respectfully to state that I will forthwith construct such a torpedo agreeably to the accompanying description, provided the Department will do me the favor to appoint a board of naval officers with instructions to institute a rigorous comparative test of the efficiency of my submarine torpedo and that of the torpedo boat referred to, built by Messrs. Clute.

Thinking that an exposition of the main features of the rival inventions—the torpedo-boat and the movable submarine torpedo—might influence your decision, I have the honor of submitting the following statement:

1. The torpedo-boat, floating at the surface of the water, will be easily crippled by a watchful enemy, even in a calm, while in a seaway its destruction will be inevitable.

2. The submarine torpedo, being immersed from fifteen to twenty feet below the surface of the water (regulated according to the draught of the vessel attacked), will advance toward its destination in spite of watchfulness and a rough sea.

3. The explosion of the torpedo-boat takes place too near the surface to affect seriously an iron-clad ship carrying twelve inch thick armor six feet below water line.

4. The submarine torpedo explodes near the bottom of the vessel struck, at a depth where the pressure and resistance of the surrounding water renders the force of the explosion so great that a charge of 400 pounds of nitro-glycerine will wholly destroy the lower part of the structure. The adopted water compartment system will therefore offer no protection against the effect of such an explosion.

5. The motive power of the torpedo boat is of a dangerous nature owing to the enormous pressure of the acting medium, 600 lbs to the square inch. At best it is insufficient, and ceases the moment the small quantity of carbonic acid capable of being carried is con-

sumed. Any mischance, calling for prolonged action of the propeller will exhaust the motive power, hence the craft will be useless in such a case, and inevitably lost, no means having been devised for bringing it back.

6. The motive power of the submarine torpedo, atmospheric air under moderate pressure, is safe and reliable. It acts with undiminished energy during any desirable length of time, being supplied by stationary engine power; hence any occurrence calling for prolonged action of the propellers will occasion no embarrassment. Should the enemy avoid contact by manœuvring or retreat, the torpedo will be brought back by turning the reel, an operation effected also by engine power. During contest, a rapid retrograde movement (impossible with the torpedo-boat) may be effected whenever requisite, simply by putting the reel in motion as stated.

7. The means adopted to start, stop, and steer the torpedo-boat, involves mechanism of an unusually complex and delicate nature. Two insulated wires are required connected with a galvanic battery on shore and coiled round a reel on board of the boat. The electric currents are regulated by a dial plate and keys, the handling of which requires experience and the strictest attention on the part of the operator who, unable to watch the course of the torpedo-boat himself, must follow the instructions received from another person. Three motors are necessary to put the propeller in motion, viz., (1) A small magnetic motor to open a valve admitting carbonic acid gas into (2) a small engine, the power of whose pistons opens a valve for admitting gas into (3) the main propeller engine. The steering is effected by two separate pistons operated also by the carbonic acid gas admitted by valves moved by galvanic agency. The pistons last mentioned put the helm hard up or down; but in going straight ahead, the rudder is kept in position by some arrangement, the nature of which has not been published. Another important device, the particulars of which have not yet been published, is necessary for letting water into a chamber at the bottom, to make good the weight lost as the wires are reeled off during the progress of the boat. Other necessary devices connected with the mechanism of the torpedo-boat might be pointed out, for instance: in order to prevent the great loss of motive energy attending the reduction of temperature during expansion, the carbonic acid gas is passed through a system of pipes intended to abstract heat from the sea and transfer the same to the frigid motive agent. Considering the high pressure employed and the great number of pistons, valves and joints, connected with the torpedo-boat, all of which must be perfectly tight, Messrs. Clute deserve great credit for their excellent workmanship.

8. The submarine torpedo is controlled altogether by the handle of the stop-valve, which admits air into the tubular cable. When this handle is placed in a vertical position, the torpedo moves directly ahead; inclined to the right, the helm is put hard up, and when inclined to the left the helm is put hard down. By intermediate degrees of inclination of the handle, the rudder may be placed at any desirable angle. By bringing the handle to a horizontal position the air is shut off from the tubular cable, and the torpedo stops. The steam engine employed in charging the air receiver which supplies the tubular cable, also turns the reel. Accordingly, the torpedo may at any moment be hauled in with great rapidity, or caused to perform a retrograde movement during contest, by simply throwing the reel in gear. It is scarcely necessary to contrast this simple mode of controlling the submarine torpedo with the intricacy involved in the system of effecting the object by electric currents and small motive engines operated by carbonic acid gas, in the manner described. The fragile character of the insulated wires, and the liability to derangement of mechanism of such complex and delicate nature, need no comment.

I would respectfully call attention to the fact that the trial at Newport was conducted at high water under exceptionally favorable circumstances, and that the drifting of the boat, after stopping the motive engine, was resorted to at last in order to reach the mark, showing that the absence of means of effecting a retrograde movement is a serious if not fatal defect.

9. The torpedo-boat, although too small to carry sufficient motive power, and incapable of running at high speed, is twenty-five feet long and three feet in diameter. Evidently such a body is too heavy to be handled with facility, while an adequate supply of such cumbrous and complicated structures in time of war will involve numerous difficulties.

10. The movable submarine torpedo is nineteen inches in diameter, and ten feet long, the shell being composed of light galvanized iron. It is provided with an engine which transmits to the propellers the motive energy conveyed through the tubular cable. At medium pressure fully fifteen-horse power will be developed. Of course a considerable portion of this motive energy will be consumed in towing the cable; but the torpedo itself, the section of which is less than two square feet, requires for its propulsion only a fraction of the stated power. It merits special notice that two propellers are employed, turning in opposite directions, an expedient indispensable to counteract the torsion produced by the great amount of motive power applied. Obviously, the torpedo will revolve in the water unless the tendency to rotate be prevented by the expedient of turning the propellers in contrary directions.

In conclusion, I have the honor to inform you that a trial has just been conducted in the bay of New York, for the purpose of ascertaining practically what amount of motive energy is consumed in towing a tubular cable of adequate size to transmit the intended power. The result of this trial has established the important fact that a tubular cable half a mile in length, towed at a rate which will give a mean velocity of ten miles per hour to the submarine torpedo, consumes one-third of the motive power capable of being transmitted through the cable. I have also the honor of informing you that the seemingly difficult problem of running the torpedo across tidal currents, has been satisfactorily solved. I am, sir, your most obedient servant, J. ERICSSON.

THE NATIONAL GUARD.

TWENTY-SECOND INFANTRY.—This command gave its second promenade concert of the season on Saturday, the 7th inst. We regretted to find that, while the character of the music and the general management were becomingly satisfactory, there were fewer guests than usual present to note and enjoy the improvements. The band gives evidence of assiduous practice as well as correct taste in the precision and gracefulness with which it renders the severer classical music, as well as the light dashing strains of Strauss and Gungl.

The audience during the concert which formed the first part of the entertainment, was barely large enough to give a cheerful look to the great hall, but as 10 o'clock drew near it was sufficiently augmented to present a lively spectacle when the dancing began. The promenaders and dancers of both sexes retained, as usual, the customary street costumes which, to say the least, appeared unsocial; yet the many charming women and elegant costumes gave unusual brilliancy to the otherwise barn-like appearance of the main drill-room. It takes a large number of personages to make a crowd in the Twenty-second armory.

This command is following its usual routine of the season, with the exception that until recently the companies have been drilling without muskets, as prescribed by the regimental commander in orders. Company commandants for the past two months have confined their commands to general setting up and details, the manual of arms for the breech-loaders not being practised until now. The companies, it is announced, will not indulge in indoor rifle practice this winter, preferring to wait until spring for practice at the Clifton range and Creedmoor. We trust, however, that Colonel Porter will not entirely cease the customary armory rifle practice of the regiment, for its benefits are great if systematically carried out. The Twenty-second last summer illustrated very satisfactorily the good resulting from its indoor practice last winter, and with these facts in view we do not see how it can consistently abandon the practice this winter. The regimental recruit class, under the competent instruction of Adjutant Harding, is getting well "under way," and will soon give a healthy exhibit of the effect of its more thorough "putting through." Adj. Harding, whose motto is "progress," has just devised a memorandum card of convenient size for the use of the recruits. This card contains rules which the members of the class are required to follow. The first of these is to report for drill at 8 o'clock p. m. on the days ordered. 2. To wear the fatigue uniform—leggings and gloves excepted. 3. To report with clean uniforms and belts, and with polished buttons and brasses and shoes. 4. To be regular in attendance. 5. To report reasons for absence to the sergeant-major. 6. To give their addresses to the sergeant-major upon first reporting for duty. 7. To avoid spitting upon the floor of the drill-room. Members of the class are also prohibited by Regimental General Orders from drilling or parading with their companies. Opposite these "seven commandments" a calendar is provided indicating the days and dates of drill during the entire season.

The regimental ball next month promises to be, as usual, the military reception of the season. The boxes are in great demand; in fact, we learn the most eligible seats have already been disposed of; still we presume there are a "few more left," as the auctioneer says. Bandmaster Charles Rehm has been appointed leader of the West Point band, which of course will necessitate his retirement from the leadership of the musicians of the Twenty-second. As Mr. D. L. Downing is a "director" in the band of the Twenty-second, we presume he will take charge of the band at present, although Mr. Downing also leads the band of the Ninth.

The regiment is ordered to parade December 20, as the following commendable brief General Orders announce:

HEADQUARTERS TWENTY-SECOND INFANTRY,
N. G. S. N. Y., New York, December 7, 1872.

GENERAL ORDERS,
No. 20.

The regiment (band excepted) will assemble at the armory in fatigue uniform, with overcoats, for drill and inspection, on Friday, December 20th, 1872, at 8 o'clock p. m.
By order of Colonel JOSIAS PORTER.

WM. J. HARDING,
Adjutant.

OFFICIAL.

This order expresses everything required; is without the customary verbiage of military documents of the National Guard; and, as the "soul of wit," as well as saving of time and paper, is recommended to adjutants generally.

THIRTY-SECOND INFANTRY.—The right and left wings of this regiment, Colonel Roehr, assembled for drill and instruction, at the armory, corner of Bushwick boulevard and Stagg street, Brooklyn, December 11 and 13. Non-commissioned officers and privates of this regiment, who have served out their term of enlistment, and desire to remain active members of their commands, will hereafter be relieved from the attendance of company drills. A regimental court-martial for the trial of delinquencies in this regiment will convene in January next. Company commandants desirous of having company fines and dues collected, will therefore prepare their claims in time to present to the officer constituting said court, and in compliance with section 236 of the Military Code of the State of New York. Commandants

of companies will also keep in mind, that after claims have once been presented for collection to a court-martial, they are not more at liberty to accept payments in liquidation thereof, and that only the president of the court-martial or the marshal are the proper persons to receive such moneys.

TWENTY-THIRD INFANTRY.—On Monday evening next the tenth annual promenade concert of this command will be held at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. These so-called promenade concerts, but more properly regimental receptions, have become season after season more famous for their general selection and characteristic elegance. In fact, as heretofore mentioned, the promenades of the Twenty-third are in reality the inauguration of the fashionable festivities of Brooklyn. The regimental band, under the direction of Messrs. Papst and Conterno, will perform many new and exquisite selections for both promenade and dancing, and the reputation gained by this musical institution of the regiment and the city of Brooklyn is a perfect guarantee. The various committees have worked assiduously, and have secured the services of the managers of the Brooklyn Art Association in the decoration of the assembly room of the Academy, and the Art Academy, all of which connect with the main building. These artistic decorations, together with the many hundreds of dollars expended on other portions of the interior of the Academy of Music, will lend almost as much enchantment to the scene as the hundreds of elegantly-robed and handsome women for which the "City of Churches" is so justly famous.

THE MILITARY GUILLOTINE.—General Orders from headquarters of the State announce that, "at a meeting of the Examining Board, appointed by General Orders No. 14, series of 1869, which convened at the State Arsenal in the city of New York on the 23d day of October, the following recommendations were made to the Commander-in-Chief, and the same are approved and confirmed: 1st. That the commissions of the following-named officers be vacated for disobedience of orders of the Commander-in-Chief in not appearing for examination, viz.: Major James L. Stevens, engineer Twenty-first brigade; First Lieutenant Lawrence Robinson, Forty-eighth regiment; Second Lieutenant Michael T. Bough, Forty-eighth regiment. 2d. That the commission of Second Lieutenant Robert J. Gilmer, Twenty-first regiment, be vacated, he being in the opinion of the Board unqualified for the office. 3d. In the case of Captain Martin McDonnell, Company H, Sixty-ninth regiment, sent before the Board at the instance of the regimental commander, for using language disrespectful to his superior officers, and for endeavoring to create trouble and dissension in the regiment, the Board report that, while Captain McDonnell may have been indiscreet in speaking of his superior officers when in citizen's dress, his offence does not seem to warrant the Board in recommending any action by the Commander-in-Chief, and they believe that the proceedings already had will prove a sufficient corrective for the evils charged.

"Commanding officers will, as soon as practicable, order elections to fill the vacancies created. The board appointed by General Orders No. 14, series of 1869, in accordance with section 101, Military Code, is dissolved."

This board, which has convened since first ordered about twice a year, has comparatively had but little work, as regards the examination of officers. It is very evident that every officer ordered before this board is sent there to be got rid of on grounds of personal spite, for the "good of the service," as it is generally termed. As a rule, very few officers appear, and they are therefore dismissed; while those who do appear seldom pass, or, if passing, stay in the service. Therefore to be ordered before this board is equivalent to a resignation; and if all the really incompetent officers of the National Guard were ordered before the board, we would soon rid the service of its principal stumbling block.

A COMRADE'S DEFENCE.—We have received from General J. P. Bankson a communication, in which he defends Major-General Prevost, commanding First Division Pennsylvania National Guard, from the recent charges made by the *Sunday Republic* of Philadelphia, and republished in a recent number of the *JOURNAL*. Our correspondent gives many plausible reasons for the ill success of Pennsylvania's National Guard, over which even the commander of its First division has no control, be he ever so competent. We publish his communication with pleasure:

PHILADELPHIA, November 27, 1872.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: It is with extreme reluctance, and actuated solely by a desire to do justice to a gallant and meritorious officer, that attention is called to an article in your issue of 23d ult. entitled "Pennsylvania's First Division."

The extract from a Sunday paper of this city therein published derives its only importance from its appearance in the columns of your journal. Here, it does no harm, as it is properly appreciated; but its circulation among military men throughout the Union, with the sanction of your reprint, is calculated to do infinite mischief.

General Prevost received his appointment December 27, 1867. The first parade under his command was made July 4, 1868. Less than 500 men were in line. Ten months from that time, in May, 1869, the division paraded 2,800 men, and was subdivided into brigades, and General Prevost's immediate supervision of battalions ceased. He turned over four prosperous commands to their respective brigadiers. What have they done with them? The First brigade has since doubled its strength. The Third brigade has dwindled away, torn by internal dissensions. The Fourth brigade, the strongest, went to pieces after exhausting the liberality

of a generous and wealthy commander. The Second brigade, reduced to the First regiment and a skeleton battalion, was restored by consolidation with the fragmentary organizations of the Third and Fourth brigades.

During that time the division commander was adding another brigade to the division, the Fifth (colored troops), who are commanded by General Wagner, and still doing well. Do these facts show "incompetency," or "lack of spirit," on the part of the division commander?

The truth is, the decline in the strength of the division is mainly owing: First to the unpopularity of the military service. The Quaker leaven affects the whole lump; and men who subject themselves to military discipline, instead of being honored and respected, are looked upon as moved thereto by vanity for the sake of personal display. Second. The fact of there being no regular assistance by either State or city, except the loan of arms. Third, and most disheartening of all, the absence of a proper military spirit outside of the narrow limits of each organization. Instead of working heartily together for the good of all concerned, petty, unmanly jealousies are allowed to exercise their deleterious influence, and until this miserable condition of affairs is changed the division cannot be a success let who will command it.

In thus repelling the attack upon General Prevost, I have contented myself with a plain statement of facts. If their publication gives offence it is to be regretted, for it is my earnest wish to do all in my power to promote harmony in the division. But if the administration of its affairs has not been as successful as was expected, let the blame rest where it belongs. The commander of a division should not be subjected, without reason, to an attack altogether unjustified, at the option of a would-be critic who has neither ability nor opportunity to judge the situation. Very respectfully yours,

J. P. BANKSON,
Brigadier-General N. G. Pennsylvania.

ELEVENTH BRIGADE, SECOND DIVISION.—The following changes have taken place in this brigade: Captain James, commissary of subsistence, has been promoted major and engineer, vice Harding, resigned; Captain Evans, to be ordnance officer, vice Woody, resigned; Captain Crane, aid, to be quartermaster, vice Evans, promoted; and Lieutenant Van Mater, aid, to be commissary, with the rank of captain. Brevet Captain Manning, late adjutant of the Twenty-third, has also been appointed senior aid on the staff of the Eleventh brigade commander.

In our report of the Second division parade of September 30, in the *JOURNAL* of October 6, in our concluding remarks, we wrote as follows: "The division was directed to march over quite an extended route after the review; but the Fifth brigade, it seems, was the only portion of the division that followed these instructions, the Eleventh brigade dismissing at Flatbush avenue just after the passage. It was dark, and this was perhaps an unnecessary march; but, unless these instructions were countermanded in the instance of the latter brigade, its commander committed a court-martial offence." These remarks, it seems, gave offence, not only to the brigade commander, but the whole staff, and particularly its chief. We were afterwards informed that the brigade, with the exception of the Twenty-third regiment, marched over the route, or a portion of it, as very naturally they should, as the armories of the other portion of the brigade lay in that direction. The brigade commander also, we learn, received verbal instructions from the division commander to use his judgment about the dismissal of his brigade after the review. These are the facts, as we have since ascertained, and we take pleasure in correcting any impression given by our remarks that tended to injure the fair fame of a most flourishing brigade or its commander. The matter, however, through oversight on our part, has never been explained in these columns until now, nor would we deem it worthy of explanation at this late date (for our remarks at the time we considered carefully qualified), were it not that a portion of the staff, led by its chief, had made a personal matter of the criticism.

SEVENTY-FIRST INFANTRY.—This regiment will parade December 19 at the State Arsenal for battalion drill. The orders have not as yet come to hand, but we presume the drill will be public. Colonel Vose has returned from the West, and has renewed his vigorous course in regard to the affairs of the regiment, internally and externally. The companies have passed through a thorough uniform inspection, and many have been found wanting in more respects than one. Still this inspection has enabled the regimental commander to ascertain how matters stood, and he will undoubtedly profit by it, as also will the regiment. Adjutant Norman will retire from the regiment on the 1st of the year, and it is understood that one of the most soldierly of the non-commissioned staff will be appointed in his place. The regiment has at last adopted the "Coldstream Guard" bearskin hat, and expect to have them in time for Washington's Birthday, when the regiment will parade, we understand, weather permitting, in celebration of this great American anniversary, with British heads, or rather hats, on. It is understood, now that these hats have been adopted, that the First brigade will retire from the Seventy-first regiment, or vice versa. The brigade commander has long tried to ward off this blow, but it has come at last!

The regiment, we learn, is making preparations to again deliver over its armory to the fair. When will armories cease to be used for anything but the purposes for which they were hired? The Seventy-first and Twenty-second have affected discipline and lost valuable time of the drill season by having these society and church fairs *politically forced* upon them.

VARIOUS ITEMS.—The following gentlemen have been elected civil officers of the Board of Officers of the Thirty-second regiment for the ensuing year: Colonel Henry Edw.

Roehr, president; Lieutenant John A. Dillmeier, secretary; and Captain Louis Finkelmeyer, treasurer. Adjutant Pape, of the Twenty-eighth, was presented with an elegant baldric by the field officers on Thursday evening of last week. We regret to learn that Colonel Burger, of the Twenty-eighth, is severely indisposed, he having sprained his ankle a few weeks since. The National Guard Riding Club assembled at the Equestrian Institute, Brooklyn, E. D., on Sunday for practice. The club exhibited an improvement since its first trial, and at the close of the season may safely venture to challenge any club of that nature belonging to the National Guard. A committee, consisting of Lieutenant Bertsch, Major Wills, Quartermaster Schmitt, Lieutenant-Colonel Obernier and Major Karcher, were appointed to draft by-laws, etc. Application will be made to the incoming Legislature for a charter. In addition to the names of the members published a few weeks ago they have "enlisted" Captain Kreuscher, of the Eleventh brigade Cavalry, Lieutenant-Colonel Obernier and Captain Wandelt, of the Twenty-eighth, Lieutenant Otto and Assistant Surgeon Orth, of the Thirty-second, and Captain King, of the Forty-seventh. The Veteran Corps of the Twenty-second regiment held its annual meeting on Monday evening of last week at its armory in Fourteenth street, and elected the following officers: Colonel, John T. Camp; Lieutenant-Colonel, Wm. C. Besson; Major, Thomas H. Cullen; Adjutant, H. G. Connell; Quartermaster, Edward Bussell; Paymaster, Peter E. De Mille. An order has been issued by the Governor of Massachusetts providing for a board of officers to prepare and report a manual for loading and firing the Peabody breech-loading rifle. The board has been constituted as follows: President, Colonel B. F. Finan, Ninth regiment; Scribe, First Lieutenant and Adjutant Thomas F. Edmonds, First company of cadets; Lieutenant-Colonel R. S. Daniells, Second brigade staff; Captain William Evans, Company F, First regiment; and Captain George E. Goodrich, Company B, Tenth regiment. The board has been instructed to report the result of its proceedings to the Commander-in-Chief on or before the 15th day of January. At an election in Company F, Thirtieth Infantry, on Tuesday evening, December 10, Sergeant E. F. Merriam was promoted to first sergeant, Corporal Wm. E. Dixon to sergeant, and Private Geo. B. Davis to corporal. On Monday evening Company B, Twenty-eighth battalion, Major Wills presiding, elected Peter Reitzner captain, and William Henry second lieutenant, vice Reitzner, promoted. On the following evening the company serenaded their new commander. Music by the regimental band. The Thirtieth will give a grand reception in February at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. First Lieutenant John C. Boylan, of Company E, after twenty years' service in the National Guard, has tendered his resignation. Lieutenant Boylan was one of the most efficient officers of the regiment, and a good soldier. We are glad to learn that the regiment will not entirely lose his services, as he proposes returning to the ranks. The Twelfth is much exercised about its armory, the owner, if paid by the city, proposing to cancel the lease. Where would the Twelfth go then? It might hire the Arsenal. Company H, Ninth, Captain Slater, will hold one of its annual pleasant receptions at Apollo Hall on Monday evening next. Company C, Forty-seventh, will dance and entertain on the European plan, without intermission, January 7 at Apollo Hall, Brooklyn, E. D. Captain Simons will be there, so will the company. Colonel Spencer, report says, is looking for a territorial command. What will then become of the Fifth? Perhaps he will take the regiment with him to fight the Indians. Who can tell? The "General Catlin Association's" first reception at Turn Halle, Williamsburgh, on Wednesday, proved very successful. The hall was well decorated, and the company included many elegantly dressed ladies and well known and influential citizens of Brooklyn, E. D. The association shows good strength and talent, and seems destined to maintain a flourishing condition and a long existence. The drum corps of the Thirty-second regiment held its third annual ball at Turn Halle, Brooklyn, E. D., on Tuesday evening. Major Karcher, the "Uncle" of the corps, was of course on hand.

CHANGES IN THE NATIONAL GUARD.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS STATE OF NEW YORK,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, ALBANY, Dec. 1, 1872.
The following named officers have been commissioned in the National Guard, State of New York, during the month of November, 1872:

Twenty-fourth Brigade—Lieutenant-Colonel Edward A. Cooke, assistant adjutant-general, with rank from November 27, vice J. C. Bennett, term expired; Major Horatio N. White, engineer, with rank from November 27, reappointed; Captain George W. Goble, ordnance officer, with rank from November 27, vice P. P. Midler, term expired; Captain John T. Mott, quartermaster, with rank from November 27, vice A. G. Yates, term expired; Captain Gard. T. Lyon, commissary of subsistence, with rank from November 27, vice R. Griffin, term expired; Captain Elias G. Baxter, aide-de-camp, with rank from November 27, vice S. W. Shulock, term expired; First Lieutenant James F. Herriek, aide-de-camp, with rank from November 27, vice William Dunsan, term expired.

Thirty-first Brigade—Captain John A. Holloway, aide-de-camp, with rank from October 18, vice W. G. Fargo, Jr., resigned.

Third Cavalry—First Lieutenant August Bickel, adjutant, with rank from August 1, vice J. Beyer, promoted; Carsten Tiedemann, captain, with rank from October 15, vice F. Bernholdt, resigned.

Separate Troop of Cavalry, Sixth Division—Nelson Mitch-

el, second lieutenant, with rank from October 10, vice Geo. Shemel, resigned.

First Infantry—Herman Gissel, second lieutenant, with rank from October 15, vice Eugene Mix, promoted; Charles J. McCarty, second lieutenant, with rank from October 17, vice J. A. Wallace, resigned; George H. Butler, surgeon, with rank from October 24, vice A. C. Corson, removed from district; Henry C. Perley, captain, with rank from October 30, vice C. J. Martin, resigned; James H. Spencer, captain, with rank from October 31, vice A. B. Dobbs, resigned; Eugene G. Judd, second lieutenant, with rank from October 30, vice H. M. Otto, promoted.

Third Infantry—Bernard Kirchoff, second lieutenant, with rank from November 11, vice M. F. McClellan, resigned.

Sixth Infantry—William E. Van Wyck, lieutenant-colonel, with rank from October 29, vice C. M. Schieffelin, resigned.

Seventh Infantry—Joseph Lenthion, first lieutenant, with rank from November 1, vice F. W. Houghton, resigned; Francis W. Bacon, second lieutenant, with rank from November 1, vice J. Lenthion, promoted; Francis W. Houghton, captain and assistant commissary of subsistence, November 1, original.

Ninth Infantry—Edward S. Bowland, captain, with rank from September 12, vice R. P. Courtney, resigned; Frederick F. Valentine, first lieutenant, with rank from September 12, vice E. S. Bowland, promoted; William Hill, second lieutenant, with rank from September 12, vice F. F. Valentine, promoted; James Slater, captain, with rank from September 13, vice D. S. Kittle, promoted; Silas B. Treat, second lieutenant, with rank from September 19, vice F. J. Robertson, resigned; Thomas D. Cutman, second lieutenant, with rank from November 6, vice James J. De Barry, resigned.

Tenth Infantry—Charles A. Lansing, first lieutenant, with rank from November 11, vice C. C. Nichols, resigned.

Eleventh Infantry—John Ihle, captain, with rank from September 9, vice John Klein, resigned.

Thirteenth Infantry—Benjamin F. Watson, quartermaster, with rank from September 28, vice A. Van Nostrand, resigned.

Fifteenth Battalion of Infantry—Charles Meyer, captain, with rank from June 18, vice F. Naumer, resigned; Charles D. Davidson, first lieutenant, with rank from June 18, vice Charles Meyer, promoted; Charles C. Kraushaar, quartermaster, with rank from October 14, original; Samuel Sherwell, surgeon, with rank from October 14, original.

Twenty-fifth Infantry—James J. Pender, captain, with rank from November 14, vice Thomas Dunn, resigned; John H. Edwards, first lieutenant, with rank from November 14, vice J. J. Pender, promoted; Jacob Hartman, second lieutenant, with rank from September 13, vice Henry Lorea, resigned; John Steiger, second lieutenant, with rank from November 15, vice John Springer, resigned.

Thirty-second Infantry—George Daidrich, first lieutenant, with rank from October 12, vice L. Finkelmeyer, promoted; Henry Miller, second lieutenant, with rank from October 12, vice Henry Biegen, resigned.

Forty-fourth Infantry—Edward Taylor, chaplain, with rank from November 18, vice D. W. Bristol, resigned.

Forty-seventh Infantry—Wm. E. Wetherbee, quartermaster, with rank from November 11, vice Thor. B. Kalfien, resigned.

Fifty-first Infantry—Fred. Schuek, second lieutenant, with rank from November 6, vice G. Hirsch, failed to qualify.

Fifty-fourth Infantry—James Ernise, captain, with rank from November 21, vice J. C. King, resigned.

Fifty-fifth Infantry—Valentine Schreiner, assistant surgeon, with rank from August 28, vice S. W. Leo, resigned.

Sixty-fifth Infantry—John Groh, Jr., first lieutenant, with rank from September 14, vice F. Gangnagel, resigned; Albert F. Rings, first lieutenant, with rank from September 11, vice John Fox, resigned; Frederick Busch, second lieutenant, with rank from September 11, vice A. F. Rings, promoted.

Seventy-first Infantry—Lewis Balch, surgeon, with rank from October 1, vice E. G. Higginbotham, relieved.

Seventy-fourth Infantry—R. R. Cornell, captain, with rank from September 5, vice Charles A. House, resigned; George D. Emerson, first lieutenant, with rank from October 11, vice J. C. Dettman, resigned; Ernst H. M. Bamberg, first lieutenant, with rank from October 16, vice Wm. Wilhelm, resigned; E. D. Munger, first lieutenant, with rank from November 13, vice Charles Gies, resigned.

Eighty-fourth Infantry—Wm. A. G. Hooton, second lieutenant, with rank from October 16, vice John Lyons, commission vacated. Sec. 100, Military Code.

One Hundred and Third Infantry—Wm. T. Burdick, first lieutenant, with rank from November 2, vice R. M. Sholes, promoted.

RESIGNATIONS.

The following resignations in the National Guard, State of New York, have been accepted during the same period:

Fifteenth Battalion Infantry—Peter Fisher, second lieutenant, November 14; Geo. Wieland, second lieutenant, November 14; Geo. Mattern, captain, November 14.

Twenty-eighth Battalion Infantry—Philip F. Kraushaar, commissary of subsistence, November 14; John Eger, captain, November 20.

Separate Troop Cavalry—Joseph Hecker, first lieutenant, November 21.

First Infantry—A. B. Dobbs, captain, November 5; Henry C. Perley, lieutenant-colonel, November 5; August Rasiga, major, November 30.

Third Infantry—George E. Jardine, adjutant, November 15; Edward Underhill, first lieutenant, November 15.

Sixth Infantry—M. A. Lassner, first lieutenant, November 30.

Eighth Infantry—Charles A. Kinnier, second lieutenant, November 12; Alexander Clark, captain, November 12.

Ninth Infantry—Arthur Blancy, captain, November 15.

Eleventh Infantry—C. Rickershauser, first lieutenant, November 15.

Twelfth Infantry—Geo. A. Bauta, captain, November 12.

Thirteenth Infantry—John H. Hunter, first lieutenant, November 15.

Twenty-second Infantry—J. Lenox Huggins, first lieutenant, November 12; A. B. Carpenter, second lieutenant, November 12; John Briggs, captain, November 30; A. E. Colfax, captain, November 30.

Twenty-third Infantry—H. S. Manning, adjutant, November 30.

Twenty-fourth Infantry—John Thompson, captain, November 19; William G. Keith, second lieutenant, November 25.

Twenty-fifth Infantry—Daniel O'Sullivan, captain, November 19.

Forty-fourth Infantry—Olin Tenney, second lieutenant, November 20; Jabez J. Lewis, captain, November 21.

Forty-eighth Infantry—Max B. Richardson, captain, November 6.

Fiftieth Infantry—J. C. Fish, first lieutenant, November 6.

Seventy-first Infantry—Henry K. White, captain, November 18.

Eighty-third Infantry—Charles Wiertz, first lieutenant, November 12.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CONSTANT READER.—For appointments to the Regular Army from civil life, the War Department promulgated regulations in 1854, which were substantially repeated in General Orders No. 93 of October 31, 1867, from Army Headquarters, Washington, D. C. Candidates must be not under 20 or over 28, and physically incapacitated. They must be well versed in knowledge of English grammar, and reading and writing; have a thorough practical knowledge of arithmetic, logarithms, algebra, plane and solid geometry, geography, history, astronomy, Constitution of the United States, and of the organization of the government under it, and of the general principles which regulate international intercourse; and, lastly, the candidates must be unmarried, and have the authorization of the Secretary of War in order to be examined.

J. L., Camp Douglass, U. T.—Section 2 of "An act to establish a system of deposits," etc., approved May 15, 1872, directs that "any enlisted man of the Army may deposit his savings in sums of not less than five dollars with any Army paymaster." That the sums thus deposited "shall not be subject to forfeiture by sentence of court-martial, but shall be forfeited by desertion." A soldier therefore who deposits money under the act above quoted, and afterwards deserts, forfeits the sums so deposited. Any amounts he may deposit after his return from desertion will be paid to him on discharge.

W. O. C., Chillicothe, O.—The act of Congress of March 3, 1859, forbids any promotions or appointments in the staff corps of the Army, specifically mentioning them by name. At its last session this act was modified so as to enable promotions and appointments to be made in the Engineer Corps, and, we understand, officers thus promoted have drawn the pay for the increased rank from the date they would have been so promoted if the act of 1859 had not intervened. Further legislation is necessary in order to open the other departments.

LIGHT BATTERY F.—The position of artificer ought not to prevent your receiving re-enlisted advance pay, to which as a private you are entitled.

J. C. C., Fort Selden, N. M.—Contract surgeons have no military rank, as rank, either actual or assimilated, can only be specifically conferred by act of Congress. They are, however, while in the performance of their prescribed public duties entitled to respectful treatment from all who are temporarily brought in contact with them; and a violation of decorum in this respect would be properly chargeable under the 99th Article of War.

COMPANY C, Permanent Party.—It is not yet known whether soldiers will be charged for the new uniform clothing to be issued or not. It is quite probable they will; but company commanders quite generally through the Army have, in expectation of the new uniform order, drawn for their men only sufficient of their old and present uniforms as was absolutely necessary.

MONTANA.—Your inquiries as to the Chilian military service can only be answered by the resident minister in Washington, Senor Don Joaquin Godoy, to whom you will have to apply.

A. F., Cincinnati, Ohio.—Your question is answered in the reply to "Constant Reader."

H. C.—Your question is answered elsewhere in the JOURNAL.

W. J. V.—Only such enlisted men as have faithfully served one term of enlistment are entitled to the distinction of a service chevron, with an additional half chevron for each subsequent complete term. Formerly a full five years' service was required, but now old soldiers who served previous three years' terms are entitled to the stripes.

TREFOIL.—At the Richmond campaign, previous to the "Five Forks" battle, General Sheridan removed General Warren from the command of the Fifth Corps and placed Wright in command.

FORT COLVILLE, W. T.—As you had expiated by court-martial sentence for the offence of desertion prior to the act of May 15, 1872, it will not be construed retroactively, and you will be entitled to increased pay provided you serve faithfully.

VANCOUVER.—By application to the Adjutant-General at Washington you will obtain the desired information, but you will have to improve your spelling if you expect to be a successful applicant.

BUGLER HALEY.—Field musicians, by the new regulations as to uniform, are not entitled to wear any stripes on their trousers.

W. L., ARTILLERY.—You are not entitled to your discharge on the grounds you mention.

N. H. C. F.—Post traders are only authorized by law at remote military stations, for the convenience of emigrants, and not for soldiers. Courts-martial cannot enforce the payment of debts due from soldiers to post traders.

S. K. L., Galveston.—Officers of the Army and Navy by reason of such employment do not lose their rights as citizens, except in so far as the Articles of War or Regulations for the Navy prescribe. If an officer should be at the place of which he would be resident if not in the service, he would be entitled to vote precisely the same as any other citizen and under the same conditions, and his office would neither qualify nor disqualify him. No act of Congress forbids the exercise of such privilege either directly or by implication, but no officer would be justified in neglecting his appropriate duties for the sole purpose of voting.

INQUIRER, Sidney Barracks, Neb.—Your question is answered on the editorial page of the JOURNAL.

A. G.—The movement which you criticize, viz., playing the battalion into division column from column of fours left in front, by the commands: 1. Close column by division on first division left in front; 2. March—the first (or leading) division forming line by executing *four's right*, the others playing in its rear, and thus bringing the left in front, is correct and authorized by the Tactics (see paragraphs 1,135 and 1,141).

B. A.—The information you ask can perhaps be best obtained by writing directly to the National Soldiers' Home referred to.

G. H. R.—From your statements we should deem your chances for appointment as a second lieutenant U. S. Army exceedingly good. We do not pretend, however, to know the effect civil service reform will have on these appointments, nor do we know the number of vacancies.

R. H. H., TWENTY-THIRD INFANTRY N. G.—It is very apparent that the non-commissioned officers of your company are not ambitious. It may have been in bad taste for the second senior sergeant, after refusing the nomination for promotion, to apply for it again after it had been offered to a private, still he is of course the first choice, and the privilege of a reconsideration in the matter. As to the promotion, the company votes alone decide that.

C. L. COLE.—The recruiting rendezvous in New York city for any arm of the service except the marine are located at 100 Walker street, 6 Centre street, 384 Pearl street, 109 West street, and 1 Greenwich street. Promotions are slow in times of peace. A man cannot be enlisted under 21 years without the consent of his parents or guardians.

FORTHCOMING fashionable weddings in Washington are announced: Miss Nannie Davis and Colonel Foster, U. S. Engineers; Miss Stoughton and Paymaster Bacon,

[From the New York World.]

A LECTURE BY GENERAL SHERMAN.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 1.

ON Saturday evening General Sherman delivered a very interesting lecture on his travels among the Greek islands, to Constantinople and the Caucasus, before the Philosophical Society, of which Professor Henry is president. There were present all the savans and professors, and a large proportion of the intellectual and philosophical minds engaged in various pursuits of different characters. Besides the Society there were a number of invited guests. Senator Sherman, two Judges of the Supreme Court, General Garfield, General B. R. Cowan, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, and General Walker, Indian Commissioner, were a few of the more prominent among them. General Sherman does not possess great oratorical powers, but his capacity to relate an interesting story is very wonderful. He spoke without notes, and the accuracy of his memory in giving dates and incidents was remarked by those present. His familiar comparisons and illustrations developed an amount of observation and knowledge that when compiled will prove of the greatest value. He had photographs and maps of places and scenes described that he visited, and which added very greatly to the interest of his lecture. These he passed among his listeners, and with their aid they were enabled to more fully comprehend the exact nature of the subject treated of. Among the interesting notes of his lecture was the description of his coasting along the western coast of Asia Minor, and finally striking the site of old Ephesus, where Paul lived and wrote his wonderful letter to the Ephesians. At that time it was a seaport; now it is, through changes of the land and sea, an inland town. Here was located in olden time the great temple of the Ephesians which was one of the seven wonders of the world. The site of this has recently been discovered, and the British Museum expends \$100,000 annually excavating to get at the buried remains. He said they have already taken one of the pillars of the temple from the ruins, which is one of the most exquisite works of sculpture ever seen in ancient or modern times. From old Ephesus General Sherman carried his hearers past the site of ancient Troy, seeing Ida, the classic spot where once the thousand springs gushed from the hill-side and rolled their united waters to the ocean through the channels of Simois and Scamander, but which is now a bare, unsightly knob, rising out of a sandy plain. From Ida the General took his hearers to Constantinople. Here he was received in the most hospitable manner by the Sultan and his officers, and by them was shown all the wonders of Constantinople. Among the interesting facts brought out by the General's trip is that the Sultan is diminishing the numbers in his harem, which institution will be soon numbered with the relics of a past barbarism. When about to start across the Black Sea the Sultan sent him in one of his own steamers to Sebastopol, where he went through the forts and viewed the battle-fields of the Crimean war and gave his criticism upon the want of military skill developed there. From here he went eastward to the region of Caucasus, a country owned by Russia and ruled by the Emperor's brother, who is the viceroy. General Sherman and his party were entertained by him. They visited the region where the beautiful Circassian women were supplied for the Sultan's harem. Dealers complained of the reduction of the profits of their business since the failure of the Sultan to keep up the former magnificence of this part of his retinue. The lecture occupied two hours. When General Sherman closed, he announced his willingness to answer any questions his hearers might wish to ask. An evidence of the interest kept up throughout was given by the fact that a pleasant conversation ensued between the lecturer and his hearers. The General collected while in Europe much valuable information on military affairs, upon which he will write a book at an early day.

[From the Broad Arrow of Nov. 16.]

THE BESSEMER CHANNEL SHIP.

ON Saturday last a number of gentlemen attended, by invitation, at Mr. Bessemer's residence, Denmark Hill, to hear him explain his invention for controlling or counteracting the motions of a ship, so as to prevent seasickness, and to see a working model of the saloon. Mr. Bessemer first explained the invention by means of diagrams, showing at the outset that the mode of overcoming the ship's motions which originally suggested itself was similar to that adopted in the case of the mariner's compass-card, and then went on to explain the insufficiency of this principle for the purpose, and the expedient, which he ultimately adopted, of introducing the hydraulic principle. Commencing with the idea of suspending a cabin on pivots, after the fashion of the compass-card, he soon perceived that from various causes, mere suspension was inadequate, as the pendulous cabin must partake of every motion, lateral as well as vertical, of that on which it hung. In that case, it must rely solely on gravitation for its adjustment, and this was too low. It was liable to be permanently disturbed from its horizontal position by a strong side breeze, or by the action of a few passengers gathering to one side to gaze at a passing vessel, or for any matter of interest. Hence he found that a controlling agent must be applied, always ready, instantaneous in action, easily controlled, and possessing power to grasp and govern the entire structure under any abnormal state of unequal wind, pressure, or irregular distribution of passengers. What he had to consider was, the possibility of supporting a floor in a perfectly horizontal position when it rested on a body which was in a constant state of motion, no matter from what source the motion might come. Hydraulic power supplied the necessary means. Here Mr. Bessemer's past experience with the steel converters, with which his name has become so intimately associated, came to his aid and solved the problem. In the manufacture of Bessemer steel, a huge vessel containing from five to seven tons of molten metal, and weighing with all its appurtenances, between ten and eleven tons, is gently elevated or overturned by a boy at a distance of

sixty feet, who, holding a lever, puts in motion the hydraulic piston, which is powerful enough to wield so ponderous a mass. This is the principle which Mr. Bessemer has turned to account in the construction of his ship saloon. The saloon will be placed in the centre of the vessel, where there is least pitch. To make way for it the engines will be moved fore and aft. It will be suspended at points in line with the keel, and this suspended saloon will be governed by a set of powerful hydraulic apparatus beneath it, so arranged that as the vessel rolls to either side the pressure or resistance afforded by the water is at once utilized to check the motion. There will be a pair of delicate equilibrium valves, actuated by a double lever like the handle of a bicycle, at which will stand a steersman, who, with a curved spirit level before him, will be able to detect any indication of rolling and suppress the tendency of the saloon to follow the motion of the ship. While the rolling motions of the ship are thus counteracted by the hydraulic apparatus, the pitching motion is mainly provided for by the central position of the saloon and the construction of the vessel, designed, as we have said, by Mr. Reed. To ensure longitudinal stability, and thus counteract the effects of pitching, an increased length has been adopted. The vessel will accordingly be 350 feet long, with 45 feet deck beam, and 65 feet over her paddle-boxes, and when fully loaded will only draw 7 feet 6 inches of water, thus enabling her to use the present shallow harbor accommodation on both sides the Channel. As the position in the centre of the ship generally occupied by the engines will be devoted to the saloon, the former, as we have shown, will be placed fore and aft, and will drive two pairs of paddle-wheels. Her engines will be 750 horse-power nominal, indicating up to 4,000 horse-power, by which it is expected a speed of twelve miles an hour will be attained. To enable her to enter and quit existing harbors without turning, the vessel will be double-ended, and a well-appointed cabin for second-class passengers will be fitted at each end. At the two extremities the ship will have a very low freeboard so that she may cut through the waves instead of rising to them. This freeboard will take up about 50 feet at either end, thus reducing the total length of the vessel on which the wind can exert its force to about 250 feet. The saloon will be 70 feet in length, 30 feet in width, and 20 feet in height, and carrying on top a promenade-deck at a height of 7 feet above the ordinary deck of the vessel. While striving to subdue the slightest possible motion and to overcome various difficulties, the designers have not forgotten the comfort of passengers. The saloon will be well lighted and ventilated, and will be fitted at each end with four principal rooms for ladies and four for gentlemen, while the promenade deck will be accessible at all times by means of a broad staircase free from all motion, and of easy ascent, so that passengers may, when they choose, enjoy the fresh sea-breeze on the promenade-deck. The arrangements for the transfer of luggage to and from the vessel will, it is believed, prevent the possibility of injury to it in any way, as well as save much time in its transshipment. Generally, Mr. Bessemer points out that the object kept steadily in view in the design and arrangement of these vessels is the greatest possible comfort and conveniences of the passengers, the rapidity of transit, and, above all, the prevention of that dreadful malady sea-sickness, with all its attendant horrors, both to victims themselves and to their scarcely less fortunate fellow-passengers.

Mr. Reed (whose experience in naval construction has also been enlisted in the designs for this ship) said its chief peculiarities were the moving of the engines from the centre to fore and aft, with a double set of paddle-wheels, and the low freeboard, the advantages of which had already been described. The arrangement with regard to the engines might possibly entail some loss of power, but this would be compensated for by the construction of the vessel otherwise. He did not like to speak too confidently, but he was inclined to think the speed would exceed twenty miles an hour.

The party then proceeded to the grounds, to see the working model, which derives its rolling motion from machinery driven by steam. In this model, which has 20 feet beam, the suspended saloon does not show more than 1 to 1.2 degrees of deviation from the horizontal position when the roll of the deck is from 28 to 30 degrees. After a careful investigation of the model, the opinion was unanimous that the principle was sound, and that it would work out successfully in practice. Perfect as it now appears, it may yet prove capable of even further development. Mr. Bessemer himself, with the spirit of a true artist, states that he by no means believes he has reached perfection in the invention. Even now he sees his way to an automatic governing arrangement, by which the services of the steersman may be dispensed with, although he recommends the employment of a steersman in the first instance; and he frankly admits that some other brain than his own may push on the work he has initiated to a higher point than he has attained.

THE following reply of President Grant to the invitation to attend the recent reunion of the Army of the Cumberland, in Dayton, Ohio, was not received until after the reunion had ended:

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 19, 1872.

General Thomas J. Wood.

DEAR GENERAL: Your letter of the 11th inst., covering a notice of the meeting of "The Society of the Army of the Cumberland," to take place on the 20th and 21st days of November, 1872, at Dayton, Ohio, and inviting my presence, is received. I do not remember receiving the former notice and invitation mentioned in your letter, and which I certainly should have considered had I received it.

It would afford me very great pleasure to attend your reunion, were it possible. But I am now busily engaged in preparing for the meeting of Congress, which will prevent my leaving Washington for the present.

It has been a matter of much regret with me that I have been so often deprived of the pleasure of meeting my old comrades in arms at these annual reunions, attended, as they are, with a revival of old associations and sympathies formed in such trying times.

Express to the meeting my regrets for not being able to be present at the reunion of "The Society of the Army of the Cumberland" on this occasion, and also my wish that the reunion may prove a profitable and happy one to all.

The noble deeds of the Army of the Cumberland, under its brave and honored commander, General Thomas, have now passed into history, not to be blotted out by time. With great respect, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT.

IN the Oswego *Palladium* of December 2, we find the paragraph subjoined. It seems to give point to the eloquent denunciations of military despotism with which we were harrowed during the late political contest:

"Last week when the artillery company left Fort Ontario for Florida, the surgeon, with three privates, was left as a garrison until the arrival of the company from Pensacola, and hard work it has been for the officer to live up to the regulations. With two men in the guard-house and one on guard the surgeon has been compelled to load and fire the sunset gun and under cover of the smoke curling over the gun do that which General Dix ordered men shot for. Unless relief arrives to-day the guard-house discipline will relax and one of the prisoners will mount guard over the other."

The New York *Times* is bold enough to regard the circumstances above related in a facetious light, and though protesting against the irreverence, we yet as a matter of news quote what it says:

"A short time since the garrison at Fort Ontario was temporarily withdrawn, the fort being left in charge of a surgeon and three privates. Two of the latter, resenting, perhaps, the authority of a staff officer, became disorderly and were put in the guard-house by the surgeon and his remaining force. There were thus but two men, including the commanding officer, left to do sentry duty, and fire the morning and evening gun, besides standing guard over the prisoners. Nevertheless, this excellent medical person and his dutiful artilleryman performed their whole duty with sleepless vigilance, and at the latest accounts were still relieving one another on the ramparts, and taking turns in examining the lock of the guard-house door. Were this faithful private to become infected with the spirit of mutiny, and to prefer the society of the men in the guard-house to sentry duty in December, there is no doubt that the surgeon would promptly disarm and imprison him, and then, rendering himself safe against an outbreak of his prisoners by reducing their systems with physic, would unflinchingly man the ramparts of Fort Ontario, and hold out until death or relief should come."

Where will our liberty be, if military despotism continues at this rate? With the South subjugated by a dozen detached companies and Fort Ontario ruled by a surgeon and three privates, surely the time has come for sounding the tocsin of freedom!

A CORRESPONDENT of the London *Times*, writing from St. Petersburg, ridiculed the idea of the probability of any rivalry of foreign powers with the naval armament of England, and called *Peter the Great* a "phantom ship." To this letter Mr. Reed, late chief constructor of the English Navy, has replied, and so far from *Peter* being a "phantom ship," he says: "I saw her eighteen months ago, with most of her bottom framed and plated and being sheathed with wood to receive a copper sheathing; her upper decks were also well in hand. During the present year she has been launched." He adds: "Even your correspondent in another place admits that she exists, for he calls her a large pontoon, and says she is indifferently constructed. I deny that she is a pontoon, and I say that she is well built, and I do not think that upon this point I need say more. Next, this gentleman says that the armor for this ship is not even begun; that her engines are but little advanced; and that her armament must be 'borrowed or bought' from Prussia. I am able to state, on the authority of those who are building her, that the armor is being made, and that some of the 14-inch plates are finished; that the engines and boilers are practically completed, and ready to be put on board during the coming winter; and that the guns of the new Russian pattern have been made in the Government works near St. Petersburg."

FACTS FOR THE LADIES.—Mrs. Rev. W. V. Milligan, Cambridge, Ohio, has saved with her Wheeler & Wilson Lockstitch Machine hundreds of dollars in the last ten years without a cent for repairs. See the new Improvements and Woods' Lock-Stitch Ripper.

MARRIED.

[Announcements of Marriages should be paid for at the rate of 50 cents each.]

WIKOFF—LAWSON.—On Tuesday, December 3, 1872, at the Reformed church, Easton, Pa., by Rev. John Beck, CHARLES A. WIKOFF, Captain Eleventh U. S. Infantry, to SUE M. LAWSON.

McGILVERAY—BROWNE.—In Stockton, California, on the 29th October, 1872, by Rev. H. L. Foote, Brevet Captain JOHN MCGILVERAY, First Lieutenant Second Artillery, to LOU, daughter of Dr. Wm. T. Browne, of that city.

McLAUGHLIN—ROBINSON.—In New York city, December 10, 1872, by the Rev. W. W. Newell, Jr., Brevet Brigadier-General N. B. McLAUGHLIN, U. S. Army, to FANNIE, daughter of Hon. Hamilton W. Robinson, of New York. (No cards.)

KAUTZ—MARKBREIT.—At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, November 27, 1872, by the Rev. Wm. Allen Fiske, AUGUST V. KAUTZ, U. S. Army, to MISS FANNIE MARKBREIT, of Cincinnati.

DIED.

ALEXANDER.—At Fort Garland, Colorado, November 25, MYRA MADISON ALEXANDER, infant daughter of General A. J. and E. M. Alexander, aged seven weeks and four days.

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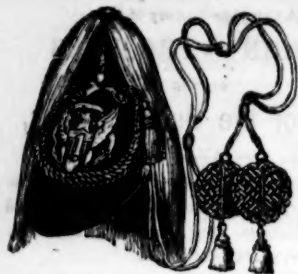
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